

Stevens Family History



Compiled by Matthew Stevens

Stevens Family History



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Published 2021, Matthew Lindsay Stevens
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Cover: Cape Nelson Lighthouse, 1904.



Foreword

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By Matthew Stevens, 2021

My father, George Stevens, began writing this book in the late 1990s. He mapped out the chapters to record the lives of his ancestors as far back as details could be found with the intention of leaving a legacy for his descendants and those of his brother, Richard (Dick). Along the way he discovered a distant cousin, Jill Catliffe, a descendant of William Stevens, and was diverted onto a joint project to write the *Stevens and Anderson Family History*, which drew on the materials he had already written. That book was published in limited circulation in 2002. I have used some material from that to prepare this history, notably a contribution written by Elizabeth Callaghan, an historian in Warnambool, Victoria.

Several of the planned chapters remained blanks, so I set about to write them, drawing on documents, photographs and notes assembled by George. I also “borrowed” a chapter from the *Pescott Papers* written by Wal Wall, a Pescott descendant. I also have to thank my cousin Chris Stevens for the chapter on his father, Dick; Annette Pimlott and Kay Sim for the chapter on Ian Stevens, their cousin; and Steve Janson for preparing the four small family trees.

For more information on some ancestors, see the following books:

Stevens and Anderson Family History for descendants of William Stevens and Susan Davies

Pescott Papers for descendants of Joseph Pescod

Just for Stamps – the Life of George Woodfull Stevens 1929–2011

Frederick William Stevens MBE – Radio and Aviation Pioneer

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Preface

By George Stevens, May 1999

This book has been compiled for the benefit of the descendants of William Stevens (1828–1895) and Susan née Davies¹ (1836–1911), in the belief that all will, at some stage of their respective lives, want to know details of their ancestors. It is by no means a comprehensive chronicle, merely the essentials of one line, the Stevens line.

Marriages in every generation bring about a change in the pedigree line. Whereas all of Amy, Ben, Robert,

1. Also spelled "Davis" in some places, probably on account of pronunciation.

Timothy, William and Nicholas share the same great-grandfather Frederick William Stevens and great-grandmother Cecily Woodfull Pescott, this is not necessarily so for their grandparents. For a complete picture, many trees need to be studied. In fact, the number doubles for each successive generation one goes back.

Unless otherwise stated, the information has been authenticated in some manner.

With reference to the Stevens Family Tree [page 6], little is known about most of the 16 ancestors in the right-hand column, most of whom would have been born in the late 18th to early 19th centuries.

Split Point Lighthouse, Aireys Inlet, Victoria, December 1903. It is of passing interest that this lighthouse served as the outdoor set for the 1990s ABC television series *Round the Twist*.



1 Stevens family

By George Stevens

The material which has been researched, gathered, colated and presented in this book is intended primarily for the information of my direct descendants, in particular my children Matthew and Jenny, and my grandchildren William, Robert, Nicholas and Timothy.

In undertaking this work I recognise two points. One is that there is likely to be very little interest shown by my grandsons for many years to come, by which time should one or more of them want to learn about their antecedents, it will be too late for them to communicate with me directly. So in anticipation of this potential need to know, it has pleased me to be able to satisfy that need long after I will be pushing up the daisies. The other is that there may well be others of the extended family, such as cousins, who might welcome access to some of this information at some future date.

At the time of preparing this work [1999], I have been gathering information progressively over the past 35 years. Unfortunately, in the early days I came across two frustrating, and it seems related, situations. One was the strange reluctance of my parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents to talk about their past lives. Getting information from them was difficult. Frequently I would be told, "Oh, you don't need to know about that," or similar dismissive comments. The other was, again, strange, a propensity for a surviving member to burn or destroy recorded information when a partner died. Despite these barriers, I have saved quite a lot of material.

One may ask, "Why bother? It is history, it has passed, you can't change it, and who is really interested anyway?" Well, I have found two things. One is the philosophy of "How do I know where I am going lest I first know whence I came?" In plain terms, what sort of a future can I map out for myself if I don't understand what created me in the first instance? I am a product of my genes and

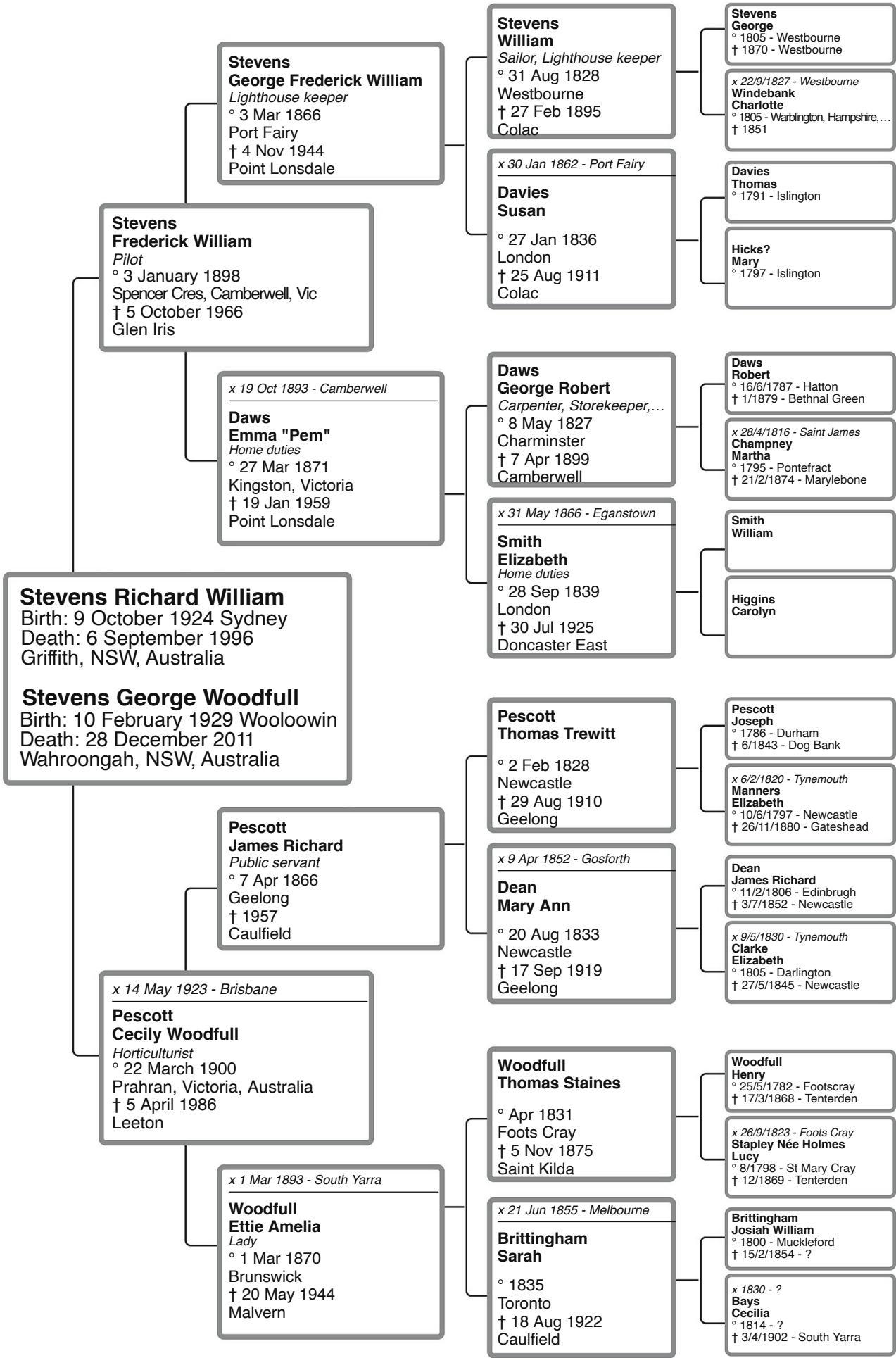
my environment, and while I can positively influence the latter, I cannot alter the former. Therefore, in order to benefit from my past, I need to understand it. Who were these people who caused me to be? What were they like? What strengths did they have? What can I learn from them?

In doing this work, I believe we have gained benefit by having a better understanding of our own lives when compared with those of our older family members. Therefore, I think that my descendants may well also benefit similarly. Every generation has beliefs about many matters, beliefs which modify, mellow, become more rational when they become tempered with knowledge about previous generations. For example, in the 1990s, young married couples felt disadvantaged when they were unable to set up their first home complete with three or four bedrooms, en-suite bathroom, TV, dishwasher, electric clothes washer, car and sometimes two cars. In the immediate post-WW2 years, young marrieds were lucky to find a room to rent, shared bathroom, with use of laundry twice a week only. The concept of home ownership was simply "pie in the sky". In turn, the young marrieds in the Depression years of the late 1920s quite literally had little more than the clothes they wore, and these clothes were usually 3rd- and 4th-time hand-me-downs. Thus, to really appreciate what a current generation has, it must understand what prior generations did not have. This understanding leads to tolerance, dispels dissatisfaction and encourages motivation to strive for achievement.

The other thing is that I have found it an interesting and intellectually stimulating experience to search out information. Often I have gone down blind alleys with consequent disappointment. Just as often in going down one path, another previously unsuspected one has opened up. In a way, the experience has been like reading a gripping detective novel, where the final chapter is locked in a steel safe and not accessible until the detecting work has been done.



2 Stevens family tree



3 Robert and Martha (née Champney) Daws

By George Stevens

It is thought that the Daws family originated in France (possibly as d’Aws), and migrated to England some time during the 17th century. Our direct Daws ancestor, Robert Daws, married Martha Champney, whose family are thought to have migrated to England many centuries ago, possibly at the time of William the Conqueror. All this, however, is unsubstantiated.

Martha was born in 1795 in Pontefract, York. Robert was born on 16 June 1787. Robert and Martha married in London on 28 April 1816 and they lived in 17 Margaret Street, Cavendish Square, and later in 33 Edgware Road, West End, London.

Robert was a cabinetmaker of some skill, it seems. He was commissioned to make adjustable chairs for King George IV and for King William IV. In recognition of this, he was invited to the palace as a guest, and was given “Freedom of the City of London”. He designed and patented the “Recumbent Easy Chair” in 1832. Later he made three similar reclining chairs and sent them to his three sons, George Robert, Thomas and Edward, in Victoria. Two of these are still in the pos-

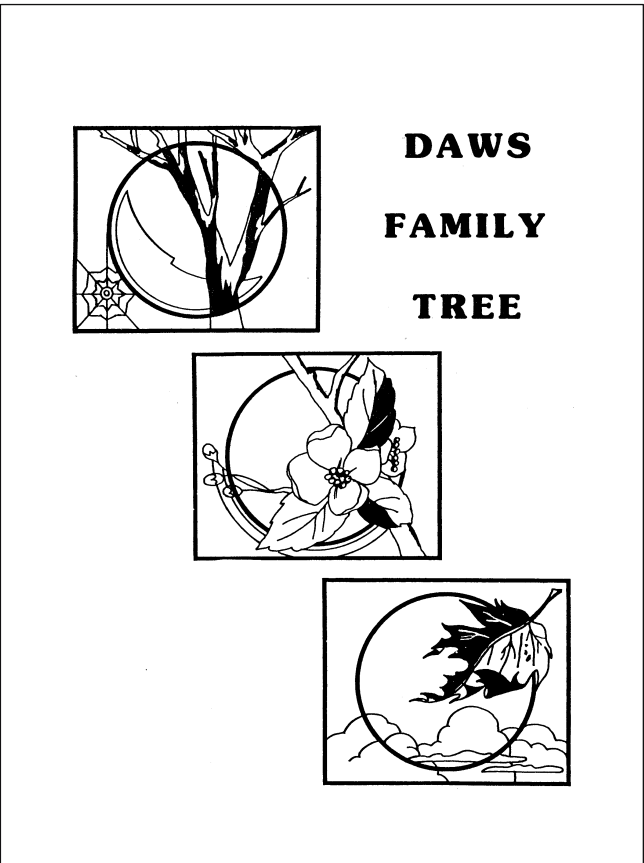
session of Daws descendants in Victoria. The third was lost in transit, possibly shipwreck.

Robert and Martha had ten children: six sons and four daughters. Five of the sons—Charles, George Robert (our direct ancestor), Edward, Thomas and Francis—all migrated to Victoria. Francis and his wife, Lucy (both minors, would you believe), migrated aboard the sailing ship *Hope*, arriving in Melbourne on 8 March 1853. The next year, George Robert, Edward and Thomas all migrated to Melbourne on the brig *Kate Kearny*. This ship was built in 1841 and had a displacement of just 146 tons. Family legend has it that this voyage took 6 months. However, an examination of 1854 shipping records shows *Kate Kearney* departing London on 26 April with 9 passengers and arriving in Hobart on 17 June. The next movement is departing Hobart on 1 August with 3 passengers and arriving in Sydney on 11 September. So exact migration details of these three brothers from London to Melbourne is unresolved.

Soon after their arrival in Melbourne, they were employed to erect a fence around the Governor’s residence in St Georges Road, Toorak. They were paid £1 per day for their work. This historic residence is now (1984) owned by the Swedish Church and is named “Toorak House”.

For more details about the Daws family, see the *Daws Family Tree* compiled by Joyce Voigt.

Photograph of Robert and Martha taken in London on Whitsunday 1865.



4 William and Susan (née Davies) Stevens

By Matthew Stevens

William Stevens was born on 31 August 1828, Westbourne, West Sussex, to George Stevens (November 1805 – 1870), farmer, and Charlotte Windebank (January 1805 – 1851).

He served in the Royal Navy during the Crimean War, 1854–1856, on the following ships:

July 1853	<i>Roxburgh Castle</i> 45 tons
December 1856	<i>Acadia</i> 117 tons
August 1857	<i>Eastern City</i> 129 tons
November 1857	<i>Monarch of the Sea</i> 135 tons
November 1857	<i>David G Fleming</i> 136 tons
December 1857	<i>King of Algeria</i> 138 tons

He was badly wounded in the leg during the early stages of the war and was discharged as medically unfit for further service. He then migrated to Belfast Island (now Port Fairy) in the Colony of Victoria in 1857. In 1965, Rubie Medic (née Stevens) Wilson wrote to her brother Frederick William Stevens:

Do you remember that Grand Dad was in the Crimean War 1854–1856? He had a very badly injured leg. In later years he was not too nimble. A great favourite with



Above: William Stevens, 1870s, Melbourne.

Below: Standing L to R: Arthur Godfrey Stevens, Annie Louisa Stevens, Maude Josephine Stevens. Seated: Susan née Davies Stevens (bonnet), Emma “Pem” (née Daws) Stevens (hat). On ground: Frederick William Stevens, Rubie Medic Stevens, Harold Robert Stevens. Taken in 1906 at “Otway Wild”, the family home, probably by GFW Stevens.



the men of Colac. They insisted he was to play in the cricket matches, but someone else took the runs for him.

He did well to come out here so soon after the war. He was in the Navy, was he not? And wounded by a shell.

William arrived in Australia on the *Shalimar* (1469 tons, built in 1854 in St John’s for Pilkington; master: A. Fortune) from Liverpool to Geelong. The *Shalimar* likely departed the UK on 20 August 1857 and arrived in Australia on 14 November 1857 (86 days). [The *Shalimar* also carried Pescott family members in the same year.] Therefore, contrary to family lore, he did not serve at the Eureka Stockade in 1854.

He worked initially as a boatman² in Port Fairy:

Stevens, William
Water Police, Able Seaman
1858, -2
VPRS 937u477
29 yrs, 5’6”, blue eyes, brown hair, fair complexion, CoFE, single, English, appointed 10/02/1858 (Victorian Public Record Series 937 unit 477 [Water Police])³

Susan Davies was born in London, England, on 27 January 1836, to Thomas Davies (1791–?) and Mary ?Hicks (1797–?). She migrated to Australia in 1861, and presumably landed at Port Fairy. Rubie wrote:

Grand Ma came out on the clipper *Lightning*⁴ I believe. ...

Do you remember that Grand Ma had marks on her face[?] It was the “gunpowder?” from a rocket. It was put on the fire with other wood. No one knew it was still alive? or active?

On 30 January 1862, William married Susan at Belfast Island (Port Fairy).

William was appointed to the lighthouse service by Captain Benjamin Francis (Frank) Helpman, who had been a lieutenant aboard the HMS *Beagle* (Charles Darwin’s ship), was the Harbour Master at Warrnambool, 1861–1869, and was a grandfather of Sir Robert Helpmann.

2. The Boatman’s job was to carry out tasks such as handling the mooring lines of ships arriving and departing harbour, ferrying key people such as customs agents, ships’ agents and port medical officers. No such thing as outboard motors in those days, power being by sail or arm muscle.

3. Hand-annotated: “Possibly the same William Stevens from A Growing list – Port Phillip & Victorian pioneers known to have been in Williamstown (Ada E. Ackerly, editor & contributor, *Women of Williamstown*, W’town City Council)”.

4. She is recorded in the logs of the *Shackmaxton* in 1861. The *Lightning* made no trips to Victoria that year.

Warrnambool 24 September 1866

Sir

I beg to inform you that William Stevens reported himself to me as successor to Alfred Goff in charge of the Beach Lighthouse.

I have given instructions to Goff to proceed to Belfast [Port Fairy] and there report himself to the Harbor Master.

Captain Ferguson	I have etc.
Melbourne	Frank Helpman

No. 146/2

7 July 1868

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 3rd instant, I beg to inform you that the Judgement Certificates have been disposed of as follows

My own	- Bank of Victoria
William Stevens	- Bank of Victoria
A Farncombe ⁵	- Bank of Victoria
John Carey ⁶	
Richard Carey ⁶	- George Wood, Grocer
John Thomson ⁶	
Robert Deverell ⁵	- Aitkin & Patterson, Merchants
	All of Warrnambool

I am etc.
F.H.

Both letters are taken from Helpman’s original log of over 200 letters, which is held in the Warrnambool Library – “Letters written to Chief Harbor Master, Williamstown, Melbourne”.

William and Susan had five children, described on the following pages.

William spent 28 years as a light keeper in seven Victorian lights: Port Fairy, Warrnambool, Wilsons Promontory, Cape Schanck, Geelong, Gabo Island and Cape Otway. The 1888 *Blue Book* gives the following brief note:

Assistant Lighthouse keeper, Cape Otway, age 59, first appointed February 1858, 28 years in service – services not continuous.

5. Head lighthouse keeper.

6. Boatmen.

Stevens Family History

1st	Refert	William Stevens	Bachelr	-	McKinnon
January 30th 1862		Susan Davies	Spinster	-	London, England
I, William Stevens do hereby declare that I am Member of Church of England					
Married in the Refert					

Lighthouse	32	Refert	Refert	George Lewis	Thomas
Annat. Book	25	Refert	Refert	Thomas, Davis	John
This Marriage was solemnized between William Stevens and Susan Davies					
According to the form of the Church of England					
By (officiary) me, Robert Thompson, Officiating Minister, or Deputy Registrar.					

Marriage of William Stevens to Susan Davies, 30 January 1862.

At different times, Rubie wrote:

“Grand Dad was quite clever evidently for he used to make suits, and clothing, and all boots and shoes for the family.”

“He was thought to be a tailor and was very clever, and made all suits and costumes for the whole family. He also made boots, and even made the high button-up ones. Where else would he be taught, but in the Navy.”

“Grandma had beautiful flags worked in silk and framed, and as a child I remembered her saying, “Men at sea like to do fine work when not on duty.”

William retired to “Otway Wild”, a cottage located on a 35-acre farm to the east of Colac, not far from the town centre. He died on 27 February 1895, aged 67 years, in Colac East.

Death Notice, *Colac Herald*, Friday 1 March 1895:

STEVENS On the 27th inst. At his late residence ‘Otway Wild’, Colac East, William Stevens, aged 67 years. Funeral today at 11 o’clock for Colac Cemetery.

Unheaded obituary, same edition:

Another well-known resident, Mr W. Stevens, of Colac East, died on Wed. morning, after an illness of only 10 days’ duration. The cause of death was inflammation of the bowels brought about by a chill.⁷ Deceased was greatly respected by all who knew him. Previous to settling down in Colac he filled the position of superintendent at the Gabo Island, Cape Schanck, Port Fairy, Warrnambool, Wilson’s Promontory, Geelong and Cape Otway lighthouses. He served in the British navy for 11 years, and used often to relate his stirring experiences during that time. He was also a member of the Victorian Police Force⁸ & prior to accepting the post of lighthouse keeper, serving altogether a term of 43 years in the British and colonial service. Mr Stevens, who was 67 years of age, had always been an enthusiastic cricketer. He leaves a family of five – two sons and three daughters. The funeral is announced to take place today at 11 o’clock, and the members of the Manchester Unity

7. In fact, it was appendicitis and peritonitis.
8. Water Police.

IOOF, to which deceased belonged, are requested to assemble at the lodge room at 10.15 a.m. in order to take part in the funeral.

Susan died in Colac on 25 August 1911. Her death notice in the *Colac Herald* read:

Notice. Death of Mrs Stevens: Throughout the district much regret will be felt at the death of Mrs Stevens, widow of the late Mr Wm Stevens, which took place yesterday afternoon at her residence, Colac East, after an illness extending over some months. The deceased lady, who was 74 years of age, was born in England, and came to this State over 50 years ago. After she was married she resided with her husband successively at Port Fairy, Warrnambool, Wilson’s Promontory, Cape Schanck, and Cape Otway,⁹ at which places Mr Stevens had charge of the lighthouses. About 23 years ago the late Mr and Mrs Stevens came to reside here. The former died 16 years ago. The family consists of two boys and two girls¹⁰ for whom much sympathy is felt.

The Beach Lighthouse

By Elizabeth O’Callaghan, historian, Warrnambool, Victoria (reproduced from *Stevens and Anderson Family History*)

In the 1860s, Captain Frank Helpman (grandfather of Sir Robert Helpmann) was Warrnambool Harbour Master. Captain Helpman wrote on 24 September 1866 to the Chief Harbour Master, Captain Ferguson, at Williamstown: “I beg to inform that William Stevens reported himself to me as successor to Alfred Goff in charge of the ‘Beach Lighthouse’.”

By all accounts the Beach Lighthouse living quarters were not very comfortable. The Beach Lighthouse was referred to in the Warrnambool *Examiner* of 30 August 1859 as a wooden one. From this fact and from comments made by Captain Helpman in his journal we can presume that the Beach Lighthouse quarters were also made of wood. Certainly the building would

9. The reference to Cape Otway does not appear in William’s official records, but see the State Library of Victoria letter dated 31 July 1968 signed by H. W. Nunn, Senior Archivist. This would then take William’s service through to 1888.
10. At this date Emily Catherine had been deceased for 15 years.

have been an unpleasant place to live in for the 9 years of its existence (from 1859 to 1869). Of the lighthouse keepers known to have manned the Beach Lighthouse, John Alexander was not married at the time of his service, Alfred Goff had seven children at the time and William Stevens had the, namely Emily Catherine, George Frederick William and Annie Louise.

As the cottage was on the beach area itself it faced the full force of the storms and gales that lashed the harbour. We know much about the conditions from Captain Helpman’s journal as he wrote many letters concerning the state of the beach quarters. In 1863 he wrote of the problems caused by the “recent gusts of easterly winds” when the screens at the lighthouse “shook considerably and may come down”. Also in 1863 he wrote of another problem that the damage done to the beach quarters and store “by the enormous quantities of water falling on the ground and partially surrounding the building through the cutting from the gully as also the drainage of Timor Street.” He added that the occupants of the house would be “liable to serious sickness and probable loss of life”, and that “the [Goff] family suffer at present severely from it.” Helpman’s solution here was to cut a drain with Lake Pertobe but it is not known whether this was done.

Apparently the beach quarters were not painted when first erected, as Helpman writes in 1863 and twice in 1864 requesting this building and the store room be painted. The lack of painting certainly would have made it difficult to keep the buildings in any sort of reasonable order and they may never have been painted. Helpman writes 3 years later in 1867:

I have to inform you that the Harbour Store at the beach is in so dilapidated [a] state as to render the security of the valuable property inside doubtful.

The Harbour Store was, I understand, near the Beach Light quarters.

However, the major problem for the Beach Lighthouse quarters was the encroaching sand. While the soil and sand around the lighthouse itself was a problem because it was continually being washed or blown away, the sand around the quarters kept building up around the outside. By 1865 the sand was a serious threat to the building. Helpman wrote:

The sand has so encroached on the land as to have covered and weighed down a large portion of the paling fence put up in front of Beach Light Quarters and the sand now stands outside on a level with the lower part of the windows. It is fast encroaching and threatens to render the place untenable.

Helpman’s solution was to recommend that the building be put on higher ground. However, nothing was done, and Helpman refers to the problem in 1867 and again in 1868. In 1867 he reported that “The recent weather has driven the sand to the level of the water tanks in some places and now threatens to cover the entire buildings.”

No doubt Mrs Goff was pleased when her husband was transferred to Belfast (Port Fairy) in 1866. But the family of William Stevens were there presumably until the end of 1868, and it does not appear that any steps were taken to remedy the sand problem. The Beach Lighthouse quarters were allowed to fall into disrepair and were a prey to vandals.¹¹ The Beach Lighthouse was closed on 1 April 1869.

Emily Catherine (née Stevens) Anderson

By George Stevens

- b. 7 February 1864, Port Fairy
- m. James Anderson (3 children), 25 November 1886, Irrewillipe, Victoria
- d. 14 January 1896, Colac

Emily Catherine Stevens was born on 7 February 1864 at Belfast (Port Fairy) Lighthouse.

As a child and as a young woman, Emily would have spent her first 16 years living with her parents in the lighthouses at Port Fairy, Warrnambool, Wilson’s Promontory, Cape Schanck and Cape Otway. As such, it is very likely that much of her education was provided by her mother, Susan, and that she never went to a recognised school.

It is not verified, but it seems that Emily moved with her parents, sisters and brothers to the house which they named “Otway Wild” (also recorded as “Otway Villa”) around 1880, when she was 16 years old.

Emily married James Alexander Anderson at Irrewillipe (a small village about 18 km to the south-west of Colac) on 25 November 1886. James is shown as a bachelor from Kiama, NSW, and Emily as a spinster from Warrnambool. Emily would have been almost 23 and James would have been 41.

One can only speculate as to how a man from Kiama, on the NSW South Coast, met a young woman in Colac, Victoria. One possible clue lies in the marriage

11. “The old Light-house quarters on the beach are being walked away with, piece by piece, by some industrious thieves. The roof is now falling a prey to their enthusiasm. For the sake of the light-house keeper we hope that this dilapidated building is not to be his quarters when the lights are changed to the mainland.”—Warrnambool Examiner 17 May 1870.

certificate, which states for each that their “usual place of residence” was Cape Otway. The only occupation for a man at Cape Otway would have been lighthouse keeper. Thus, it is possible that James met Emily in the lighthouse quarters.

Emily’s daughter Florence Maude was born in Colac, and her sons William Dene and Arthur James were born in the small town of Bingurra, now called Birregurra, 11 km east of Colac. Thus, Emily and James must have had a home in or near Birregurra in the years 1889 to 1892 at least.

At the age of only 32, and after only 5 days of influenza, Emily died on 14 January 1896 at the Colac Hospital in Corangamite Street, Colac. The cause of death was pneumonia and cardiac failure. As James was in Western Australia at the time, and as there were three little children to look after, it is likely that Emily’s sisters Annie and Maude took them all in at “Otway Wild”. Emily’s newspaper obituary records that Emily was a “most kindly dispositioned lady”. Nothing else is known about Emily, and there appear to be no surviving photographs of her.

George Frederick William Stevens

- b. 6 March 1866 Port Fairy
- m. Emma Daws, 19 October 1893, Camberwell (3 children)
- d. 4 November 1944, Point Lonsdale

Please see Chapter 8, “George Frederick William and Emma (née Daws) Stevens”.

Annie Louisa Stevens

By George Stevens

- b. 1870
- m. never (no children)
- d. 23 February 1931, Colac East

Annie was the third child born to William and Susan, circa 1870. At that time, William was employed as a Boatman in Geelong harbour. Thus, it is likely that Annie was born in Geelong.

Annie never married or had children. She died on 23 February 1931 in Colac East. The Colac *Herald* printed the following obituary, dated 27 February 1931:

MISS ANNIE L. STEVENS The death took place on Monday, as briefly reported in Wednesday’s “Herald,” of Miss Annie L. Stevens, after a long illness. The deceased’s father had been connected with the lighthouse services



Annie Louisa Stevens around 1890.

on the Victorian coast and was for some years light housekeeper at Cane Otway, Wilson’s Promontory, and Point Lonsdale. The late Miss Stevens had been for many years a member of St. John’s Church of England choir and was an active worker in the Girls’ Friendly Society and Ladies’ Guild. She took a keen interest in the musical affairs of the town and was a regular competitor at the Colac Musical Society’s competitions. She was also a well-known artist and a competitor at the Colac P. and A. Society’s shows, and some of her paintings adorn the walls of the Colac Soldiers’ Memorial Rooms. The home in Colac was called “Otway Villa.” The funeral took place to the Colac cemetery on Wednesday, when the coffin-bearers were Messrs R. Cross, R. Kemp, C. Marriner, M. Evans, junr., P. H. Dalton and A. Evans; the pall being supported by Messrs H. Cole, W. Marriner, H. Powell, R. Champion, W. L. Taylor, A. Fedderson, G. F. Sydenham, and G. Kemp. Amongst the wreaths was one from St. John’s Church of England choir. The services at the home and the graveside were conducted by the Rev. D. K. McConchie, the funeral arrangements being carried out by Mr T. W. Sharrow.

Maude Josephine Stevens

By George Stevens

- b. 1873
- m. never (no children)
- d. December 1954, Geelong

Little is now known about Maude Stevens, the fourth child born to William and Susan Stevens. The year of her birth was probably 1873. In that year, William was stationed at Cape Schanck, so possible locations for Susan’s confinement might have been Mornington or Frankston. The *Stevens and Anderson Family History* includes copies of correspondence relating to Maude’s death in 1954 and her Will. Other than these documents, little else is known about her life.

The following is pure speculation on my part:

The ultimate beneficiaries in Maude’s Will, after the death of her brother Arthur Godfrey, are, with one exception, either descendants of her sister Emily Catherine or old friends in Colac. Notable absences of family names are that of the widow Emma and children of her late brother GFW Stevens. These surviving children were Fred Stevens (Co-Executor of the Will) and Fred’s sister, Rubie. Fred’s brother Harold had died in Brisbane in March 1954. The exception was Loveday Stevens, Harold’s widow, who was named as a beneficiary.

A reasonable question to ask is “Why would Maude favour friends in her Will over close family members?” A possible explanation may be that this was one of those family situations of estrangement. Evidence of this is firstly, although GFWS and Maude lived only 30 km apart, I don’t ever recall occasions when one visited the other. Secondly, when I was a child, Aunt Maude’s name was never mentioned in my presence and it was never suggested that I should visit her en route to and from Melbourne via Geelong during visits to my grandparents in Point Lonsdale. As well, my father never made me aware that I had a great aunt living in Geelong.

Further evidence of this assumption of family estrangement is in the letter dated 12 December 1954 from Arthur Anderson to Fred. Although Arthur and Fred were first cousins and both in their 50s living less than 2 hours’ drive apart, they had never met. Apparently Maude had maintained some level of contact with the Andersons because of her early association with her sister Emily, but little to no contact with her brother George. I guess we will never know the full story.

Arthur Godfrey Stevens

By George Stevens

- b. 1875, Geelong, Victoria
- m. never (no children)
- d. 1957, Liverpool, NSW

Arthur was born in 1875. At that time, his father, William, was stationed at Cape Schanck.

In the case of his sister Annie, we know just a little from the newspaper obituary. In his sister Maude’s case, we know a little from her Will. In Arthur’s case, we know virtually nothing. Family legend has it that Arthur was a gambler and a bit footloose. At one stage he may have worked as a coach builder for Cobb & Co., but other than that nothing is known of his life’s activities.

In his late years, Arthur lived with his nephew Arthur Anderson and Mary at their home in Braemar, a village in the NSW Southern Highlands near Mittagong. While there he became ill and was taken to the Salvation Army home at Balmain by his nephew William Dene Anderson and William’s son Roy. Arthur was later transferred to Liverpool Hospital, where he died in 1957 aged about 82.

Recorded in the biography of Maude Josephine Stevens are comments about likely estrangement in the family. There is further evidence of this in Arthur’s case. Fred Stevens, Arthur’s nephew, had lived in Sydney during the early to mid 1950s. At no stage during this period, other than the correspondence relating to the execution of Maude’s Will, is there any evidence of attempts by Fred or Arthur to contact each other, yet they were living possibly no more than 20 km apart.



5 George Robert and Elizabeth (née Smith) Daws

By George Stevens

Robert and Martha Daws had 10 children, one of whom was George Robert Daws. George Robert was born in St James, London, on 8 May 1827. In company with two of his brothers he migrated to Melbourne in 1854 on the brig *Kate Kearney*. He had a number of occupations as carpenter, store keeper and baker.

- He was married to Elizabeth (Lizzie) Smith on 31 May 1866 at Blanket Flat, later called Eganstown, Victoria.
- His age at marriage date was 39, his rank, “store-keeper”, and his “condition”, bachelor.
- Elizabeth was 22 years of age, born in London (28 September 1839) to William Smith, commercial traveller, and Carolyn née Higgins. Elizabeth’s “condition” was spinster.

- Elizabeth migrated to Victoria in 1860.
- One of the marriage witnesses was George Robert’s younger brother Francis.
- George Robert’s usual place of residence is noted as Kingston, and Elizabeth’s is Daylesford. Daylesford is approximately 190 km to the north-west of Melbourne, and Kingston is approximately 17 km to the west of Daylesford. Present-day maps do not appear to show either Blanket Flat or Eganstown, but a reasonable assumption is that Blanket Flat was near Daylesford and Kingston.

George Robert and Elizabeth had seven children, one of whom died in her year of birth. Our direct ancestor was the third child born, Emma (“Pem”) Daws.

George Robert died on 7 April 1899 at Spencer Crescent, Camberwell, aged 71 years and 11 months. Elizabeth died on 30 July 1925 at George Street, Doncaster East. They are buried together at Boroondara Cemetery, Kew, Victoria.

Elizabeth Daws.



George Robert Daws.



6 Thomas Trewitt and Mary Ann (née Dean) Pescott

By Wal Wall

Thomas Trewitt Pescott and Mary Ann Dean were married at Gosforth, Northumberland, in the far north-east of England on 9 April 1852. (The IGI site on the net records Tom as “Thomas Trewick Prescott”, ugh!) Tom’s paternal grandmother was Elizabeth Trewitt, hence his second name. One finds the spellings “Trewhit”, “Trewhet” and “Trewhett” as well in the neighbouring counties of Northumberland and Durham. Descendants who carry the name include George Trewhett Pescott and Jack Trewhett Dean Pescott, the latter also carrying Mary Ann’s surname. Another to carry the Dean name is Lizzie Dean Pescott. Tom’s mother’s name, Manners, is carried by Tom’s older brother, Moses Manners Pescott, as well as David Manners Pescott, Elizabeth Manners Pescott and George Manners Pescott. No-one appears to carry Mary Ann’s mother’s name: Clark(e). The mothers of Elizabeth Clark(e) and Elizabeth Manners are not known, although it is likely they both had “Elizabeth” as their given name. [Both were called Elizabeth.—MLS]

We have a copy of a letter dated 22 April 1891 written by Thomas T. (courtesy of Joscelyn and Beverley Pescott of Lane Cove, NSW) in which he spells his mother’s surname “Maners” on three occasions. Who can you trust? Tom had written to a firm of accountants or solicitors in England hoping to establish a claim, via his mother, to money lying in chancery: “I had often heard her make [a statement], to the effect, that she was entitled to a large amount of property and had she not been so foolish as to destroy some important papers in connection therewith she could have claimed it”. I wonder if Tom’s dose of dreaming was related to a daydream held by my grandmother, Lil (Pescott) Morriss. She claimed we were related to nobility – probably having in mind that the Dukes of Rutland have the Manners surname. David Charles John Robert Manners, born 8 May 1959, is the 10th Duke of Rutland. Before the 1st Duke (1703), the Manners were Earls of Rutland dating from 1525, and before that were lords. (Rutland, in central England, was one of the small counties that disappeared when county boundaries were redrawn in 1974.)

Tom also throws interesting light on the name “Pescott”. “My father’s name was ‘Thomas Pescod’, but for some reason unknown to me, he altered the name to ‘Pescott’.” I have his indentures dated 1796



Thomas Trewitt and Mary Ann (née Dean) Pescott.

signed by his father and himself as “Joseph Pescod”. He was born at Swalwell, County of Durham. Joseph’s discharge papers are written out to “Joseph Pescott, Private”, and he signs himself as “Joseph Pescott”. His discharge, dated 24 May 1810, records that he had been in the army for 6 years 10 months, that he was 24 at the time and that he was discharged because of “a consumptive tendency which renders him unfit for further service.” The reason Tom related the change of names is that he found a “Sarah Pescod” whose relatives, apparently, could claim estate from chancery.

When Joseph married Elizabeth Manners in 1820, he used the name “Pescott”, and their five children (4 boys and 1 girl) carried that name. Moses (number 1) died aged 11; George died aged 29 and there is no evidence that he married; Moses (number 2) died in infancy; and the girl, Elizabeth, married William Wailes. It is quite possible that Thomas T. is the only member of the Pescod/Pescott family to pass on the name “Pescott”. In other words, it is possible that no person with the surname “Pescott” in the UK is related to us – but that Pescods could be.

In a 1965 issue of the *Victorian Historical Magazine*, Ian McLaren claimed, in an article on Tom and Mary’s son, Edward Edgar, that Tom was “encouraged to emigrate to Australia by a relative because of the great demand for his trade at the gold diggings of Victoria.” We (i.e. my sister, Wynsome Penn, and I) believe that relative to have been a Dean, since relations of Mary Ann are known to have come to Victoria. We have not tracked any of them down yet, although there are some clues Wyn is following up.

Tom, aged 29, a pregnant Mary, aged 24, and their two children, Elizabeth and Mary Ann, set sail from Liverpool on 16 August 1857 in the ship *Shalimar*, of 1402 tons, with Captain R. T. Brown as captain. During the voyage of 87 days, the couple’s first son, Thomas



Pescott family portrait, 1890s. Thomas and Mary Ann are centre.

Blenkinsop Shalimar Pescott, was born: “Shalimar” after the ship and “Blenkinsop” possibly after a relative. “Blenkinsop” is a fairly common surname in the north-east of England. (I have come across a record of a Blenkinsop–Trehitt marriage, but cannot establish a link to our Trehitts.)

As a journeyman carpenter in Geelong, where Tom and Mary landed, Tom could earn 12 shillings a day, while labourers could command only 8 shillings a day. Tom worked for wages for 7 years, finding himself working on many of the railway stations on the Geelong–Ballarat line.



The Pescott residence, McKillop Street, Geelong. The side of Tom’s workshop is visible on the left. To the right is Tom’s son David’s residence. Next to that on the right, not visible, was son George’s residence.

His Works Do Follow Him¹²

Address by Wal Wall, 2002, at the church

It took only three months to build the Pakington Street¹³ United Methodist Free Church. When, on 20 May 1877, the church was opened, the building was crowded, especially in the evening, when seats had to be put down the aisles to accommodate listeners.¹⁴

Among the listeners would have been Thomas Pescott, the man whose memory we are celebrating this weekend, because it was he, who, as contractor, built that church.

In 1890 he built additions to the Sunday school here at Noble Street,¹⁵ while his sons David and George built the semicircular kindergarten hall in 1915.

It is 150 years since our ancestors Thomas Trewitt Pescott and Mary Ann Dean were married in All Saints Church, Gosforth, in England at Easter time 1852. The Pescotts left England and arrived in Geelong in 1857. In the year Thomas built the Pakington Street church, 1877, he was, here at Noble Street, a Sunday school teacher, librarian and treasurer. He would later become the school's superintendent, and, as the Honour Roll attests, a church trustee.

[Further text is omitted. See *Pescott Papers* for full details.]



12. I had been given 5 minutes to deliver an address directed to Pescott descendants in the congregation, and told not to waffle on. I wore a stopwatch round my neck as a mark of mild protest.

13. Pakington Street Uniting and Noble Street Uniting were amalgamated in 2001. Members of the past Pakington Street Church now attend Noble Street and were present when this address was given.

14. *Geelong Advertiser*, 21 May 1877.

15. Possibly the vestry.



7 Thomas Staines and Sarah (née Brittingham) Woodfull

By George Stevens

Thomas Staines Woodfull was born in 1831 in a little Kent village called Foots Cray, which is about 20 km to the south-east of the centre of London, just off the A20. The significance of the word “Cray” is not known. It must mean something, as nearby there is North Cray, Crayford, St Pauls Cray and Mary Cray. Of interest also is Thomas’s second name of Staines, because not too distant to the west is a major town called Staines. Perhaps the Woodfulls had connections in Staines. It is an unusual name. Throughout his life, he was known as Staines, not Thomas.

From Staines’s death certificate we know that his father, Henry, was a paper manufacturer. His mother’s was Lucy Holmes, but she was Lucy Stapley when she married Staines (perhaps as a widow). Staines migrated to Victoria in 1851. He married Sarah Brittingham at the age of 24, on 21 June 1855. His occupation is not known, but Chapel Keeper is shown on his death certificate as his occupation at the date of his death. The cause of Staines’s death is shown as congestion of both lungs and chronic asthma. Family legend has it that he was an alcoholic. He was buried on 6 November 1875 ages 44 in the St Kilda Cemetery.

From her death certificate we know that Sarah was born in Canada in about 1835. Her father, Josiah William Brittingham, was a Mining Investor. Her mother was Cecilia Bays. Sarah migrated to Australia in 1853 at the age of 18. As we know from above that Staines was married in 1855, Sarah must have been 20 at marriage.

Staines and Sarah had nine children: Cecilia Lucy, Sarah Elizabeth, Mary Stapley, Thomas Staines Brittingham,¹⁶ William Henry Brittingham, Kate Elizabeth, Ettie Amelia (our direct ancestor), Ruth Eleanor or Elaine,¹⁷ Helen Rebecca¹⁷ and Alfred Holmes.¹⁸ Sarah, William and Ruth predeceased their father in early childhood.

16. This Thomas Staines Brittingham Woodfull became an ordained C of E minister (perhaps a reaction to his father’s addiction to alcohol), and one of his children, William Maldon (Billy) Woodfull, captained the Australian cricket test team immediately before Don Bradman.

17. A bit of a mystery is that Staines’s death certificate lists Ruth Eleanor/Elaine, but not Helen Rebecca, but Sarah’s death certificate lists Helen Rebecca but not Ruth Eleanor/Elaine.

18. Alfred became mayor of Prahran in later life. It is alleged that there is a stone engraving at the entrance to the Prahran town hall bearing his name.



Sarah (née Brittingham) Woodfull, 1907, age 72.

Sarah died on 18 August 1922 at the home of her daughter Ettie (our direct ancestor) at 88 Eskdale Road, Caulfield. Sarah was certainly a strong, resourceful and remarkable woman. She lived to the advanced age of 87 years, becoming seriously ill only 2 months before her death. During her lifetime she coped with (reputedly) an alcoholic husband to whom she bore nine children. She was left a (probably destitute) widow at age 40 and with five children under the age of 16 to support, one a 9-month-old infant (see Cecily Woodfull Pescott, later). Consider Sarah’s triumphs over adversity. Metaphorically there is steel in her eye. Look at her photo. There is character in that face. We can be proud that Sarah is our ancestor. She is buried at St Kilda Cemetery.

The direct descendants of Thomas Staines Woodfull can trace their direct line of Woodfull ancestry in England back to 1592 as follows:

- 26 Mar 1592
- Robert Woodfull buried according to Grandborough Parish records. Grandborough is 9 km slightly west and to the south of Rugby, in Northamptonshire.



Stevens Family History

- 25 May 1582

Francis Woodfull, son of Robert, baptised in Hillmorton (a village just east of Rugby). Francis married Margeria (or Margarita).
- 2 Apr 1621

John Woodfull, son of Francis and Margeria, baptised. Died 20 March 1707. John married Margaret.
- 18 Apr 1656

Richard Woodfull, son of John and Margaret, baptised. Buried 10 June 1716. Richard married Mary. They had eight children, including Nathaniel.
- 10 Sep 1697

Nathaniel Woodfull baptised. Died 29 May 1781. Nathaniel married twice. First union with Mary Naseby in Coventry, 24 December 1736. Second union with Mary Hewitt, 5 April 1743, at what appears to be Willovehey. There is no record of Willovehey to be found, but there is a Willoughby about 8 km slightly east and to the south of Rugby. Mary Hewitt bore 6 children to Nathaniel, including Henry.
- 10 Feb 1753

Henry Woodfull baptised. Died in Kent 27 January 1782. Henry married Elizabeth. First born was Elizabeth, then Henry.
- 25 May 1782

Henry Woodfull married Lucy Stapley née Holmes (1792–1869). Henry was a painter, but what sort is not known. He died 17 March 1868. Both are buried in the Foots Cray churchyard, Kent, about 20 km south-west of the centre of London. Henry and Lucy had several children, including Thomas Staines.
- 1831

Thomas Staines Woodfull bom. Married Sarah Brittingham. Nine children of this marriage, the second last being Ettie Amelia.

We have less information about the Brittinghams. The records we have state that Josiah William Brittingham was born ca 1800 in Muckleford (isn't that a lovely name?), and died in Victoria on 15 February 1854. There is no Muckleford in England in 2002, but there are Mucklestone, Muckleton and Muckletown. Josiah was the third son of Roger Brittingham of Swanton Hall in Norfolk. Here again we have a problem of there being no Swanton Hall in Norfolk. However, there is a Swanton Abbot and a Swanton Morely, as well as a Swanton Novers, all in Norfolk, something

like 16 to 30 km distant from each other. The villages of Mucklestone and Muckleton are about 300 km to the north-west of Norfolk, and Muckletown is way north in Scotland. So although we are fairly certain that Roger lived in Norfolk, we have no real idea of where Josiah was bom. There was at one time a Muckleford near Castlemaine, Victoria, but if Josiah was born in 1800, it is highly unlikely he would have been born in Australia.

The *Mount Alexander Mail* (Mount Alexander is close to Castlemaine, Victoria) of 16 February 1885, page 2, is said to have published the following:

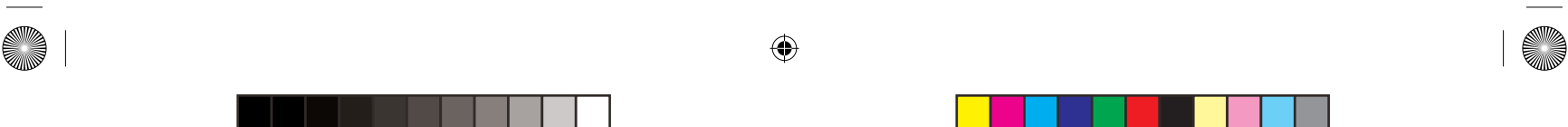
One of the oldest residents of the Newstead District, Mr Brittingham, died yesterday at his residence of Green Valley at the age of 82. He was one of the successful pioneers in quartz reefing in the neighbourhood and opened up some claims that still bear his name.

This Mr Brittingham would have been Josiah, Sarah's father.

Newstead is a small town about 10 km to the west of Castlemaine on the road to Maryborough. We can't locate a Green Valley, but maybe that was the name of his property. We have been told about a whistle stop called Green Gully also on the Castlemaine-to-Maryborough road, so maybe that was once called Green Valley.

Further snippets of unconfirmed information about the Brittinghams:

- 1856–57 Electoral Rolls are alleged to show Brittingham, James (Miner) miner's right, Muckleford division.
- Brittingham, William (brick maker), Chapel Street, freeholder, self occupier, South Yarra division.
- A death notice in the *Trafalgar Gippsland* newspaper dated 3 February 1885 shows "Brittingham. 2nd February Trafalgar. Beloved husband of William Brittingham (Junior) of Wilson Street South Yarra aged 26 years." The given name of the deceased lady is not known.





George Frederick William Stevens and Emma “Pem” (née Daws) Stevens, circa 1892.

8 George Frederick William and Emma (née Daws) Stevens

By George Stevens

George Frederick William Stevens (GFWS) was the second child of William and Susan née Davies. He was born on 6 March 1866 at Belfast Island (Port Fairy), Victoria.

Nothing is known of his childhood other than that he must have lived with his parents in some of the light-houses where his father, William, was a lightkeeper. Thus, he would have been a baby when the family was appointed to Warrnambool, almost 3 years of age when they went to Wilsons Promontory, and 5 when they went to Cape Schanck. The stay at Cape Schanck was protracted, and he would have been 14 when they left there on 30 June 1880. It is not known where the family went to live after Cape Schanck, but obituaries from Colac newspapers indicate that the family was living there in 1888.

There are, however, reliable public records which show GFWS’s full-time service in 10 Victorian light-houses over a period of 34 years, followed by another 19-year period during which he did occasional relief work.

His lighthouse keeping service is as follows:

17 Apr 1889	Joined Victorian Lighthouse Service	
1 May 1889	South Channel Rosebud	Assistant
1 Jul 1893	Split Point	Assistant
1 Oct 1896	Cape Nelson	Assistant
17 Jun 1899	Gellibrand	Assistant
8 Jul 1900	Point Lonsdale	Assistant
14 Jan 1903	Point Lonsdale	Assistant
13 Jul 1903	Cape Nelson	Senior
19 May 1906	Split Point	Senior
8 Jan 1908	Wilsons Promontory	Senior
8 Apr 1910	Point Lonsdale	Senior
17 Apr 1912	Cape Schanck	Senior
15 Jul 1915	Cliffy Island	Senior
1916	Long Service Leave	
1917	Wilsons Promontory	Senior
1920	Point Lonsdale	Senior
1922	Gabo Island	Senior
1923	Retired	
1924 to 1943	Did relieving work as permanent keepers went on leave.	

GFWS married Emma (“Pem”) Daws on 19 October 1893 at the family home, “Harlington”, Spencer Cres-

Stevens Family History



Gellibrand Point Gellibrand Pile Light, Port Phillip Bay, circa 1910.



Cape Schanck Lighthouse, circa 1912.

Split Point Lighthouse, 1905.





Cliffy Island Lighthouse, 1917.

cent, Camberwell, Victoria. A copy of the marriage certificate shows the following:

- GFWS's usual residence was the Split Point lighthouse and his age was 27.
- His rank and profession were Lighthouse Keeper and Bachelor, respectively.
- His father was William Stevens, a Government Officer, and his mother was Susan Stevens.
- Emma's usual place of residence was Camberwell and her age was 22.
- Her rank and profession were Domestic and Spinster, respectively.
- Emma was born at Kingston, Victoria, to father George Robert Daws, Gardener, and mother Elizabeth Daws Smith.
- Witnesses to the marriage were her father and her brother Edward.

Emma was born on 27 March 1871 in Kingston, Victoria, to Elizabeth (née Smith) and George Robert Daws. She was as much a pioneer as the women of the West. From the time of her marriage in October 1893 to 1923, she spent a total of 30 years in the isolation of Victorian coastal lighthouses. The accompanying photographs show some of the wild and rugged outposts where she raised her family.



Cape Nelson Lighthouse, circa 1930.

In 1901, when GFWS was lighthouse keeper at Point Lonsdale, the then Duke of York, who later became King George V, visited Australia for the purpose of officiating at the Federation of Australian States. One of the Duke's escort vessels, the cruiser *HMS St George*, had a new-fangled contraption called a wireless set installed. The chief engineer for the PMG's department, H. V. Jenvey, heard about this, and designed and built his own transmitter/receiver. This he installed at the Queenscliff lighthouse, about 3 miles from the Point Lonsdale lighthouse, and used it to communicate with the *St George* as she approached Port Philip Bay.

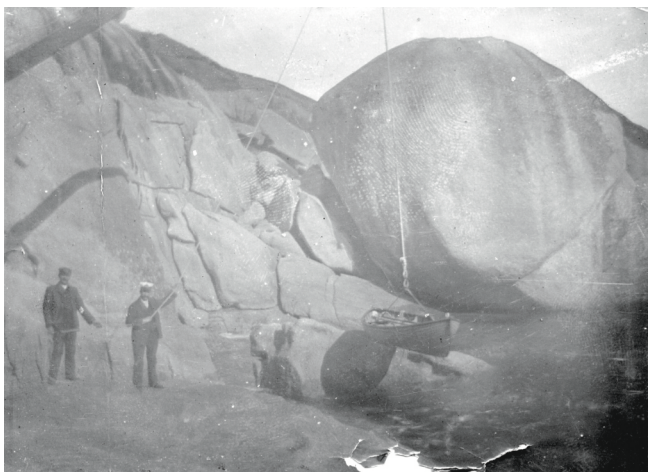
GFWS and Emma had three children, Frederick William, Rubie Medic and Harold Robert. If you refer to the group photo of Susan Stevens et al. on page 8, these are the three children in that photo.

In 1908, the Governor of Victoria, Major General The Honourable Sir Reginald Talbot KCB, and his wife visited Wilsons Promontory. His aide-de-camp later wrote to William:

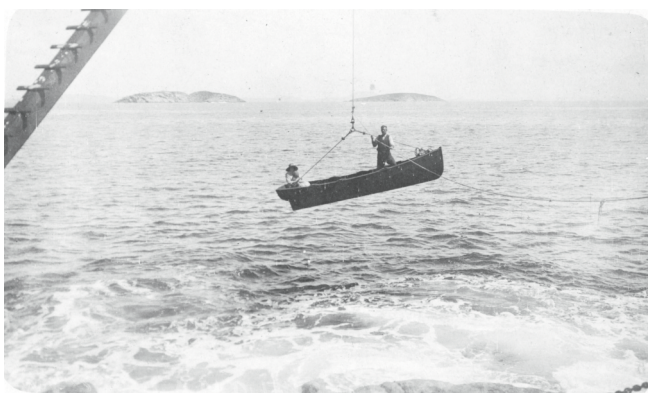
May 27th 1908

His Excellency the Governor wishes me to write and thank you very much indeed for the views of the lighthouse which he recieved [sic] today, he was especially glad to get them as unfortunately none of the photographs taken by Mr West came out and His Excellency

Stevens Family History



West landing, Wilsons Promontory, circa 1908. Figure to left (dark cap) is likely George Frederick William Stevens.



Cliffy Island landing, circa 1915. "This is how we land, and get away from here. The 2 islands in distance are (from L to R) Notch Island and Seal Island."



"West landing Cliffy Island & similar boat to one lost", circa 1915.



Perhaps Point Lonsdale, Victoria, 1902. Left: George Frederick William Stevens; right: Emma "Pem" (née Daws) Stevens. Seated on porch: Frederick William Stevens. The infant in Pem's arms is likely to be Harold.

was most anxious to have a picture of the lighthouse to put in his book.

His Excellency and Lady Talbot wish to thank you very much for sending them the two Nautilus shells her Ladyship was delighted with them, she has always admired them so much but has never had one of her own.

A. J. Fife Capt. a.d.c.

A newspaper article which appeared in *The Sentinel*, a Queenscliff publication, on 19 November 1910 and titled "Miraculous Escape From Drowning" (reproduced on page 26), tells how GFWS saved Emma and the three children from drowning.

For more information on Emma, see the *Daws Family History* by Joyce Voigt.

Emma and two of her brothers, Edward and Robert, in 1956 at the George Street, Doncaster, house.

In the latter years of their lives, GFWS and Emma lived in a gracious old timber house named "Samarai", located on the ring road leading into Point Lonsdale, about half a kilometre from the shopping centre. The house originally bore the name "Emoh Ru" (read it backwards), but they later changed it to Samarai, the name of the island in New Guinea where their older son, Fred, spent time as the island's radio operator in 1918 and 1919 (see *Frederick William Stevens MBE*).

GFWS had been a member of the Cape Nelson rifle club in earlier years and won several awards for marksmanship. In his retirement years, he supplemented his meagre government pension by trapping rabbits, which were plentiful around his home, by fishing, and by growing and selling vegetables to the



GFW was a champion rifle shooter and won awards.



locals, and particularly to the summer tourists. The flesh of the rabbits was used as main course meals, and the skins were sold every month in Geelong. Fish were not as plentiful as rabbits, but between these two protein sources, there was rarely need to waste money at the butcher's shop.

The garden soil was sandy, having little nourishment and virtually no moisture-holding capacity. GFW overcame both of these deficiencies by digging long deep trenches throughout his whole garden, and over



Lightkeepers' cottages, Cliffy Island, 1915.



Above: Cape Nelson lightkeeper's cottage, circa 1906. Pem and her three children are visible on the porch. Below: Same cottage, 1960, virtually unchanged.



"Samarai" back garden, circa 1926.



Rubie, Emma, George, Harold and Fred Stevens, Cape Nelson, 1904.

many years patiently and laboriously dragging up from the beach literally tons of kelp to bury in the trenches.

GFWS died on 4 November 1944. Emma died on 19 January 1959 in Point Lonsdale. Both are buried in the Point Lonsdale cemetery, just inside and to the right of the main gate nearest to the Point Lonsdale village and “Samarai”.

Miraculous escape from drowning at Point Lonsdale

The following is taken from *The Sentinel*, 19 November 1910.

In a very simple way almost a whole family may on Wednesday have lost their lives by drowning. Mrs Stevens, wife of Mr GW Stevens Lightkeeper stationed at Point Lonsdale with three children went down to the beach, and from what can be gathered the children carried with them a small box to play boat with. After being in the water a short time Mr Stevens walked down the pier and seeing the children with the box cautioned them not to play with it knowing there was deep water near. The eldest boy, Fred, threw the box out into deep water and the younger boy thought he would try and secure it, and after going a short distance he was in trouble through getting into the deep water. Fred the older boy of the two seeing his brother struggling in the water hurried to his assistance and caught hold of him keeping him afloat for a minute or so and then sank. The little girl, when both sank, tried to reach them but seeing they were far beyond her reach screamed for assistance. The mother heard the girl’s scream and hurried to the spot having to run about 100 yards. She caught hold of the

younger boy, and after a short swim both sank leaving the other boy struggling in the water by himself. Mr Stevens was in the lifeboat shed and hearing the screams hastened to know what was the matter and saw the two boys struggling ...

He then raced down the pier about 60 yards to where they were in the water throwing off his coat as he ran and jumped over the handrail into the sea about 20 feet below and swam for about 60 yards to where the three were in the water. On reaching the spot the only person visible was the eldest boy Fred who was floating face downwards. Mr Stevens then dived for his wife and youngest boy and was caught round the weeds and finding he could not release her hold struck out for the shore towing the youngest boy and his wife. As he could not reach the surface of the water Mr Stevens caught hold of Mrs Stevens arm and wrenched free and then got to the surface for a breath. Mr Stevens immediately dived again. This time the little boy Harold caught him round the neck and got his feet round his body. Knowing he had the two together he swam ashore greatly exhausted. Just then Mr A Carrow and Mr G Pattersonn, members of the R.A.E. hearing the alarm ran up and were in the act of helping Mr Stevens when he called them to save his other boy. This as is known they succeeded in doing, only for them the little lad would have been drowned as Mr Stevens was too exhausted to save him and we hasten to record the gratification of Mr & Mrs Stevens to the two gentlemen mentioned and others who assisted in the rescue.



George Woodfull Stevens at “Samarai”, circa 1995.



GFWS, Point Lonsdale Lighthouse, March 1921.



Emma and GFW Stevens with baby Richard William Stevens at "Samarai", 1925.



GFWS enjoyed sketching. This sketch, completed in June 1939, came to GW Stevens some time in the 1960s. George's neighbour Brian Williams, two houses up the road in Mount Waverley, Melbourne, happened to own one of the lightkeepers' cottages at Aireys Inlet. George lent it to him to hang there. A few years later, when George had moved to Sydney, Brian returned the sketch. By 2020 it had yellowed (as above). Matthew treated it to reduce the yellowing and to neutralise the acid in the paper.



GFWS was a skilled cabinetmaker. He made this sea chest to hold all of his possessions. On his death it went to his daughter, Rubie. On her death it went to Matthew, who stripped off the rust-red tar-based paint and restored it to working condition.

Form C.M.I.—8.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Navigation Act 1912-1920.

SUBPÆNA TO WITNESS TO GIVE EVIDENCE.

(1) Here state place at which Court established. IN THE COURT OF MARINE INQUIRY ⁽¹⁾ MELBOURNE.

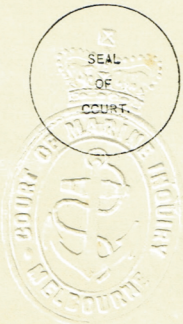
(2) Here state subject-matter of inquiry, appeal or reference. IN THE MATTER OF ⁽²⁾ the collision which occurred in the vicinity of Port Phillip Heads on the 8th day of April, 1924, between the British Steamships "Dilkeria" (Official No. 117411) and "Wyrallah" (Official No. 93558).

(3) Here state person to whom subpoena issued. TO ⁽³⁾ G. F. W. STEVENS, Head Lightkeeper, Point Lonsdale.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear before the Court of Marine Inquiry at Law Courts, William St., Melbourne, on the Twentyfourth day of April, 1924, at the hour of 10.30 o'clock in the fore-noon, to give evidence in the above-mentioned matter and to continue in attendance until notified by the Court that your presence is no longer required.

Dated this Twentysecond day of April, 1924.

C.11821.



J. Buadish
Registrar of the Court of Marine Inquiry.



GFW Stevens was a skilled cabinetmaker and made this document box to store his correspondence in.

9 James Richard and Ettie Amelia (née Woodfull) Pescott

By George Stevens

James Richard was the fourth son, seventh child, born to Thomas T. and Mary A. Pescott on 7 April 1866 in Geelong, Victoria. The earliest record we have of James is dated 29 June 1866, when he was almost 3 months old. This is a Certificate of Successful Vaccination attested at Chilwell by one James Pincott, the Medical Officer for Ashby and Kildare. It is not known what James was vaccinated against, but perhaps small-pox.

The next record is dated 31 May 1877 at Geelong. This certificate, number 18023, was issued by the Victorian Education Department, signed by J. Baldwin, Inspector, and is a Certificate of a Child being Sufficiently Educated up to the standard of Education required by the “Education Act 1872”. At this time James would have been 11 years of age.

It seems that James was attracted to classroom activities. The Victorian Education Department Roll Number 2061, Chilwell State School, has some relevant entries. Firstly, on 20 June 1881, at age 15 years and 1 month, he was designated a Sixth Class provisional student teacher. Then, 3 years later, on 20 June 1884, he was appointed Pupil Teacher from 28 April 1884. A few months later, on 6 October 1884, the Inspector of Schools, Mr Stewart, wrote, “Should improve – rather slow”. The use of the word “should” here is ambiguous. Was Mr Stewart issuing an imperative command that James must improve, or was he predicting that James had potential to improve? We suspect the latter.

Fourteen months later, on 16 December 1884, James was judged as being competent to advance to the third class level of teaching, pending assessment in Writing and the Art of Teaching. Apparently James applied himself, and on 5 June 1855, backdated to 1 April 1855, he was classified as a Third Class Teacher, although the critical Mr Stewart grudgingly comments “Shows improvement. Is improving.”

James continued to progress as a teacher, being classified as Second Class as from 1 January 1886 (Mr Stewart at last recognising talent by recording “Works well”), and as First Class effective 1 April 1887. On 31 March 1887, at age 21 and after 3 years teaching, James resigned.

A minor point of interest is that Thomas Blenkinsopp and Edward Edgar were also assessed as needing to improve in the Art of Teaching during their respective



James and Ettie Pescott, circa 1918.

careers with the Victorian Education Department. As Wal Wall remarked, “A systemic weakness evident in the Pescott family.”

Archive records at the Victorian State Library have the following entries relating to James:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1893 | Married Ettie Amelia Woodfull on 1 March 1893 at South Yarra. |
| 1899 | Address shown in Census as 26 Gladstone Avenue, Malvern. Occupation, Clerk. |
| 1902 | <i>Government Gazette</i> , Department of Agriculture. Clerk Assists Accountant Class 4-1 on a salary of £200. Date commenced as a Civil Servant 28 April 1884 (this was the date he was appointed as an 18-year-old Pupil Teacher at Chilwell School, Geelong). |
| 1903 | Electoral Roll shows his address as 26 Gladstone Avenue, Malvern. Occupation, Civil Servant. |
| 1905 | <i>Government Gazette</i> , Department of Agriculture. Clerk Assists Accountant Class 4-4 on a salary of £260. |

- 1910 *Government Gazette*, Department of Agriculture. Clerk Assists Accountant Class 3-2 on a salary of £335.
- 1917 *Government Gazette*, Correspondence (Agriculture) Senior Clerk – Correspondence (appointed 1 January 1915). Has supervision of Branch, 32 years of service. Salary £456. Class 3-5.
- 1929 *Government Gazette*, Closer Settlement Department Secretary. Appointed 25 October.
- 1929 Has supervision and management of branch. Salary £741. Class 1-4. 45 years of service.
- 1931 Retired age 65, 47 years of service.

A few of the more memorable events in James’s life are recorded as follows:

In 1898, James won a Bible as 3rd prize in an examination set by the Women’s Temperance Union. Exciting times!

By 1903, James and Ettie had three young children and were outgrowing the facilities of 26 Gladstone Street, Malvern. James had a secure, well-paid job with bright prospects, and they decided to buy land and build a home in the then rural and distant suburb of North Caulfield. Around 1904–05, James’s brother David supervised the construction of what was to become the family home at 88 Eskdale Road, Caulfield. Here their 3 children—Dorothy, Keith and Cecily—lived until they left home for marriage.

In the early 1930s, when the Great Depression was biting hard, James and Ettie undertook a car trip, which could be likened to a trip today from Cape Town to Algiers and back. This was to drive their car from Melbourne along the mostly unsealed Hume and Pacific Highways to Brisbane (something like 1500 km each way) to visit their younger daughter, Cecily, and her husband, Fred, and their two small boys. James had purchased an American-built Oakland 6. This vehicle was state of the automobile art. It had a fabric roof, clip-on mica side window covers, gorgeous-smelling leather upholstery, big headlights and mysterious red tail lights. It also had running boards along each side, and family lore has it that on occasions swaggies, many of whom were on the roads in those days desperately looking for work, would run alongside the moving car attempting to jump on to the running board. There was no threat of violence, simply that they were looking for any sort of handout.

Only the very affluent people had cars, and of course very few homes had garages. So during their stay in



“Westfield”, 88 Eskdale Road, Caulfield, Victoria, 1930s.



“Westfield”, 88 Eskdale Road, Caulfield, Victoria, 1940s.



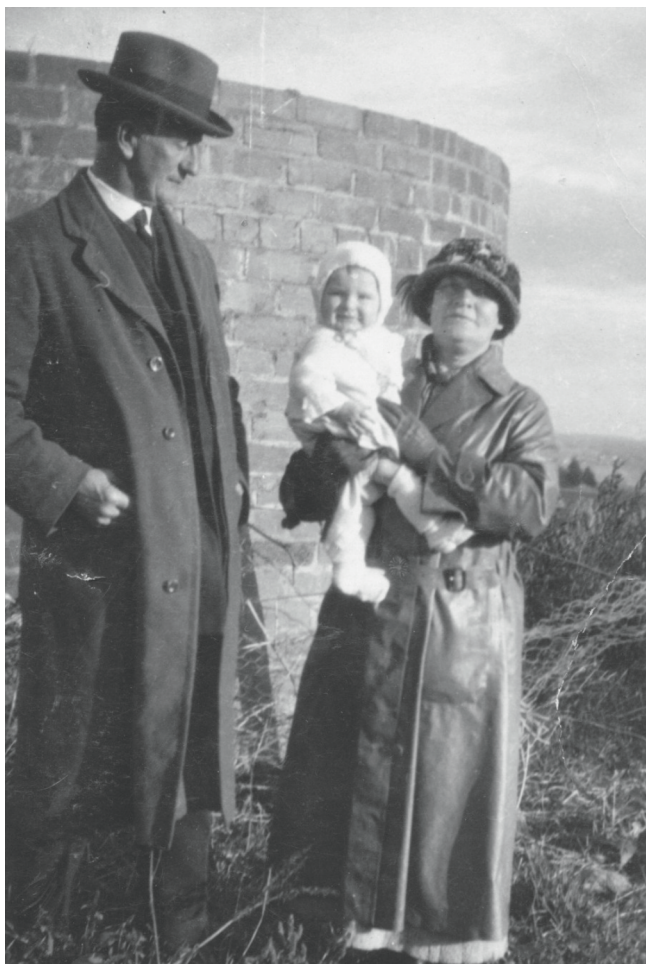
“Westfield”, 88 Eskdale Road, Caulfield, Victoria, 2001.

Brisbane, the Oakland used to spend each night sharing a stable with the local bread carter’s horse. Back home at 88 Eskdale Road there was a garage. It had an earth floor with a shallow trench dug in the centre between the wheel tracks. This trench allowed James access to the underside of the vehicle for inspection and maintenance. What Ettie thought about washing dirt-covered overalls is not known.

A characteristic stance of James was to sit in his chair, right arm lifted over his head, right hand holding a pencil, and with one finger of his right hand gently massaging his left temple. His left hand held a newspaper, folded such that the dominant feature was his favourite cryptic crossword puzzle, titled “Lady Bogy”. The creator (or more realistically the sadistic perpetrator) of Lady Bogy would ascribe a target time



Ettie Amelia née Woodfull Pescott, age 43, 1913.



James and Ettie Pescott with baby Richard William Stevens, 17 July 1925.

for completion of each puzzle, typically 27 minutes or 33 minutes or other equally impossible duration. Consistent with his approach to life, James would faithfully time himself, and although he rarely met the target, he would never give up trying.

When talking with his grandchildren, James had a word which he used to describe almost everything. This word was “infundibulum” (which he pronounced “infandibulum”).¹⁹ Here are some examples: “Grandpa, why do you sit like that?” “Well, it helps my infundibulum.” “Grandpa, why do you put petrol and water in your car?” “Well, it makes the infundibulum work properly.” “Grandpa, why are horse jockeys little men?” “Well, they have lots of infundibulum with their breakfast, and that stops them growing.”

To keep his mind and body active in his later years, James took up lawn bowls, and became a member and regular player at the Caulfield Park Bowling Club, which had been officially opened on 6 October 1923,

19. An infundibulum is any funnel-shaped organ. He is also reported to have used the phrase, “‘Ah!’ she cried, as she waved her wooden leg, far above her infundibulum,” apparently unaware of the connotation.

13 years after the concept had first been mooted. Unconfirmed, it is thought that James joined this bowling club around 1931 upon his retirement from the Victorian Public Service. During the early 1940s, James found that his lawful cerebral commands given to the moving parts of his body were being blatantly ignored, so he turned his interests to the card game of Solo, and spent many hours with his mates at the club following this pastime. So engrossed was James with his Solo that he had to be collected at the Club premises one morning at 11:00 am to attend the wedding of his eldest granddaughter, Norma.

The family home, built by his brother David circa 1905, still stands at the corner of Eskdale and Wyuna roads, North Caulfield. Because it was built in the then western corner of the wheat fields, the home became “Westfield”. In the days of occupancy by James, Ettie and their three children, the Eskdale Road boundary had a tall cypress pine hedge along the entire length, and the Wyuna Road boundary had a tea tree hedge from the front gate to the back gate, then a tall paling fence to the rear boundary. Privacy was assured. James’s garden had the usual beds of iris at the front and carrots at the back, and he also favoured fruit growing. There were two lemon trees, an apricot tree,

a prolific almond tree, a damson plum, another plum and a trellis covered with a ‘Waltham Cross’ grape vine. Except for the almonds, the birds had a lovely time in summer when the fruit ripened.

In those days, there were three horse stables in Eskdale Road, and every morning before daybreak the race horses would be heard clip-clopping along Eskdale Road as they were taken to the nearby Caulfield Race-course for morning gallops. Most of the residents of Eskdale Road had well fertilised gardens.

A favourite evening pastime of the family was to gather around the “Lincolnola” and sing along with the music and words on the piano rolls. Both James and Ettie had good singing voices. This was also the scene after Saturday cricket when the “home” team and, as Norma Oakley puts it “The Hangers On”, gathered at “Westfield” to sing along. Another activity which amused James was to cut out of newspapers articles which took his fancy, and to paste these into a large blank book. Political cartoons and “Believe It or Not” by Ripley were two of his favoured topics.

After some years of progressive degeneration of her mental faculties, Ettie died on 26 May 1944 at age 74. Her body was cremated at Springvale Crematorium. James died during 1957 at age 91.

Soldier settlement

George Stevens, September 2001

This text should be read in conjunction with the *Pescott Paper* of James Richard. It is by no means an academic treatment of the topic, merely some observations based upon research into the various circumstances which would have influenced James in his capacity as Secretary to the Victorian Government’s Closer Settlement Board between 1929 and 1931. In essence, James had an impossible job to do, as will be understood in the following.

The Closer Settlement Scheme had its origins in the land settlement process which came into being during the 1860s. At that period, a growing majority Australians felt and expressed resentment against the minority wealthy “squattocracy” which dominated Australian agriculture. It was proposed that the introduction of the English system of yeomanry was necessary to spread the wealth. Accordingly, under the banner of the Closer Settlement Board, selected applicants were allocated Crown Land for lease and given financial assistance to establish small agricultural enterprises.

By the early 1900s, it was clear that the concept was not working, and a Royal Commission was convened.

In 1915 this Royal Commission concluded that “closer settlement has proved a failure”. The main reasons given were that the land holdings were too small, that the lower limit of capital required by applicants was too low, that the extent of financial assistance was too low, and that in some cases the land was unsuitable for the enterprise activity.

By 1916, when the Anzacs were starting to return home from WWI, a politically motivated scheme was introduced to assist returned soldiers to become self-sufficient income earners, and to contribute to the nation’s wealth, by extending the provisions of the Closer Settlement Scheme to selected applicants for Soldier Settlement assistance.

However, despite the findings of the Royal Commission, the offers of soldier settlement were completely inappropriate. The tracts of land were too small, the capital required was even less than that under the previous scheme, and in many cases the land was totally unsuitable. Areas of the Gippsland and Mallee scrubs are examples.

In 1925, reports show that in Victoria, 10 565 soldiers had been granted leases, but of these, 1111 had quit – surrendered their lease or simply walked off in desperation. By 1927, the number of leases granted in total had risen to 11 152, but 1903 had quit. By 1929, Victoria’s debt had grown to significant levels, and the biggest single contributor was Closer Settlement at, approximately £10 million. By 1938, more than 50% of soldiers settled had quit, many absolutely penniless, all totally disillusioned.²⁰

Again, the main causes were land unsuitable for agriculture, lack of capital, and in the light of present-day

20. Different reports at different dates show slightly different figures. Those quoted here are representative.

The information in this summary has been extracted from the following publications:

The Limits of Hope, ISBN 0 19 554666 0, an historical record 1915–1938 of Victorian Soldier Settlement, compiled by Marilyn Lake from her Ph.D. research.

Report to the Victorian Government Legislative Assembly by the Committee of Public Accounts, Victoria (Closer Settlement and Discharged Soldiers Settlement Funds), 1 August 1922.

Report of the Proceedings and Debates of the Conference of Representatives of the Commonwealth and State Governments and of the Federal Parliamentary War Committee in respect of the Settlement of Returned Soldiers on the Land, Held at Melbourne 17th–19th February 1916.

“Land of Hope”: Soldier Settlement in Western District of Victoria 1918–1930 (Working Paper Series No 9911, June 1999) by Dr Monica Keneley, Deakin University, Faculty of Business and Law.

Stevens Family History

knowledge, a lack of scientific advice and support. Another factor was probably the political scene. In the period 1917 to 1929, Victoria had six governments, and during this period the portfolio of Lands (the Department of Lands administered the Closer Settlement Scheme and its extension to the Soldier Settlement Scheme) changed ministerial hands ten times.

So, this was the environment in which James Pescott worked, and because of the circumstances probably received not one word of thanks for persevering with an ill-conceived and impossible task, predicted by quite a few politicians at the onset as likely being an almost total failure, which it ultimately turned out to be so.



“Westfield”, 88 Eskdale Road, Caulfield, Victoria, when everything was wheatfields. This photograph shows why the house was named “Westfield”, as it was a field in the west of the estate.



10 Frederick William Stevens

By Matthew Stevens

Frederick William Stevens was born on 3 January 1898 at Spencer Crescent, Camberwell, Victoria, to Emma “Pem” (née Daws) Stevens and George Frederick William Stevens. His life is described in detail in his memoirs, *Frederick William Stevens MBE*.

He married, first, Cecily Woodfull née Pescott, who bore him two sons, Richard William Stevens (1924) and George Woodfull Stevens (1929); and later, Nancy Alumward Sim, who bore him Ian Bruce Stevens (27 July 1947).

He died on 6 October 1966 in Glen Iris, Melbourne.

Frederick William Stevens MBE
Radio and aviation pioneer



Compiled by Matthew Stevens

11 Cecily Woodfull (née Pescott) Stevens

By Matthew Stevens

Cecily was born on 22 March 1900 in Armadale, Victoria, to James Richard Pescott and Ettie Amelia née Woodfull, the third of three children. She was baptised in the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Armadale.

She attended a private girls' school, where she learned to play tennis (she later became a champion player in Brisbane).

Cecily married Frederick William Stevens on 14 May 1923. Their first son, Richard William "Dick" Stevens, was born in Sydney in 1924. Their second son, George Woodfull Stevens, was born in Brisbane in 1929. At the time, Fred worked for the PMG and built first 2BL in Sydney, then 3LO in Melbourne, and finally 4QG in Brisbane. This involved frequent moves, and Cecily knew no one in each new location. In Brisbane, however, she found an outlet in competitive tennis.

Below: Standing left: Cecily Woodfull Pescott. Standing right: Ettie Amelia (née Woodfull) Pescott. Seated: Sarah Brittingham (d. 1922), circa 1920.



Above: Keith Woodfull Pescott and Cecily Woodfull Pescott, "Westfield" front garden, circa 1917.

After learning to fly in 1930, Fred was often away, first with Qantas, later with the Department of Civil Aviation, and Cecily had had enough of being ignored and being left with two children she didn't want. (Decades later, George recounted how Cecily used to beat him, and Dick had to intervene to stop her.) By the early 1940s, Fred was frequently away in New Guinea, and Cecily had taken up with David Patrick Davidson, a returned WWI veteran probably suffering from undiagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder. Cecily met David when a friend of hers who visited servicemen in hospital as an act of charity invited her to come along one day. David was recovering from something, although it is not clear whether he was wounded in WWII (we think he served in WWI) or, as a returned serviceman, was entitled to care for a later ailment. (David was a builder; perhaps he was injured on the job.) Cecily quickly found comfort in David's arms (and bed), and threw Fred out. At the time, this kind of behaviour would have been scandalous, so it's not clear how Cecily was able to go out in public. Divorce was granted on 2 May 1944.



"On the rocks at Eagles Rest. Mother [Ettie Amelia Woodfull], Auntie [Dorothy] & Cec" (Cecily Woodfull), 15 Feb 1920.

"Cecily Pescott on Geebung. Taken at South Gippsland. Great Auntie Cissie's Victoria Farm at Foster. Mother's Auntie Cissie Ritchie May 1922."



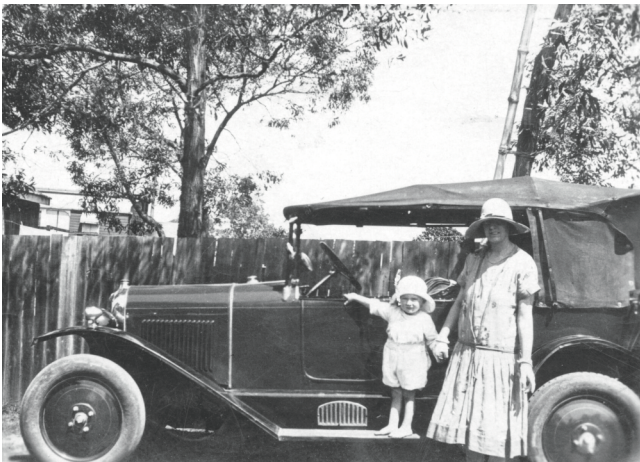
Stevens Family History



Cecily Woodfull (née Pescott) Stevens with Richard William Stevens, 19 October 1924.



Baby Richard William Stevens, Ettie Amelia Pescott and Cecily, early 1925.



Cecily with Dick, 1926.

Cecily and David lived initially at “Westfield”, 88 Eskdale Road, Caulfield (Cecily’s childhood home), for several years. When George married in 1953, Cecily decided to sell the house and return to both George and Dick the capital they had spent on renovating it over several years. Cecily and David bought a house, called “Nanganinna”, in Priors Road (unnumbered), The Patch, north-east of Melbourne, where Cecily engaged in her passion for breeding *Lilium* flowers. She won several awards for these, and registered five: ‘Cecily’, ‘Amelia’ (unknown origin of name), ‘David’, ‘Anzac Glory’ and ‘Jennifer’ (for her granddaughter).

The house was a small shack built on a large block. A line of mature pine trees lined one side of the property, beneath which sat an abandoned chaff cutter, perhaps a relic of previous farm occupation. Over the years, Cecily established a dense garden, with banks of lilies and beds of camellias (the scent of *Camellia sasanqua* always reminds me of it). The house had no indoor toilet; one was obliged to trek along a dirt path out the back to a free-standing dunny, with a loose wooden seat fitted over a can and a wad of torn newspapers hanging on the door in place of toilet paper. No light, of course. Once a week, the night-soil man would come in, carrying an empty can in and lugging the full one on his shoulder back out again to the truck. Life for sewage workers has improved since then.

One highlight of our visits there in the 1960s was an umbrella stand with a spray of peacock feathers standing proud in it. They were very exotic. Cecily would make baked rice custard for our visits. Also very exotic. She enjoyed exotic teas (probably Earl Grey); my mother would privately criticise her for adding milk and sugar to them.

George severed contact with his mother several times. This was never evident to us littlies, but it explains the irregular nature of our visits to The Patch and the



George Stevens, David Davidson, Cecily and Dick Stevens, at "Westfield", circa 1947.



Left: Cecily (right) with tennis friends, 1930s. Right: Cutting from Brisbane Telegraph, 26 October 1934.

years between visits. Cecily maintained a better relationship with Dick, possibly because he was her first born and was more able to stand up to her. Nevertheless, when she moved to Leeton, NSW, in the 1980s to be close to Dick, Dick's son, Chris, related that as fearless as Dick was (for example, as a commando in New



Cecily in her garden at The Patch with her trophy for 'Anzac Glory', the lilliums above her, 1964.

Guinea during WWII), he saw Dick quake in his boots in front of her.

Some time in the 1960s or 1970s, Cecily and David married, possibly for financial reasons. Eventually, David went slowly mad and spent all of Cecily's money on drink. At some point in the early 1980s, Cecily moved to Leeton to be near Dick, who was then living in Griffith. David must have gone into a State nursing home; the *Victorian Government Gazette* recorded his death as 19 July 1985.

Dick told us that she kept her car at first and drove regularly to the shops, but she was forced to give up her licence when she parked on a slope and forgot to put on the handbrake, and the car rolled down the hill into another parked car. No one was hurt.

In my first professional job, I went to Griffith in 1983 on business. The company representative there very kindly took me to visit Cecily in her room at Assumption Villa, Brobenah Road, Leeton. I spent an hour with her. She seemed placid but was still fully *compos mentis* and was pleased to see me. I recall that her room held a bed, a small freestanding wardrobe and a bedside table. That was all that was left.



Cecily with all of her trophies, platters and ribbons for breeding liliums, March 1966, in her garden at “Nanganinna”, Priors Hill Road, The Patch, Victoria.

Cecily died on 5 April 1986 and is buried in the C of E Cemetery in Whitton. There was no inheritance beyond a few plant books.

Cecily’s memories

By George Stevens

These comments are a prelude to the information below. As often happens when people are recalling the past, the main theme is periodically interrupted with aside comments. As well, human memory is always suspect, and what a person believes has happened may not necessarily be so. Thus, one is likely to discount family lore in favour of conflicting evidence from official records. However, it must be borne in mind that official records have been compiled from human input, and are just as likely to be incorrect as family lore.

I have attempted to record here the substance of the information given to me by Cecily, my mother, during a conversation we had on 14 September 1969 at her home in The Patch. I have grouped the information under the headings of Main Theme and Asides.

Main theme

Cecily’s great-grandparents on her mother’s side were called Brittingham. They owned paper mills in England and were an affluent family. Some time in the 1840s, grandmother Sarah’s father, Josiah William Brittingham, and her mother, Cecilia née Bays, migrated to Canada. Sarah, the eldest daughter, was born in Canada. There were seven or eight in the family, six of whom were born in Canada. While in Canada, Josiah gave £200 and £300 to two men to go to Australia to invest in the construction of a railway line. Having heard nothing for 2 years, Josiah became alarmed and decided to move his family to Australia. It is not known what happened to Josiah’s money. On the ship, Sarah met Thomas Staines Woodfull, whom she later married. Also on this voyage, Cecilia gave birth to her last child, Cecilia (Cissie).

Upon arrival in Melbourne, the Brittinghams set up their tents, complete with tiger rug floor coverings, on what later became the site of the Buckley & Nunn department store, which opened in 1851 and finally closed in 1982.



Cecily in 1963.

Sarah married Staines in 1855. This was the era of the gold rush, and Staines, deciding his fortune lay in the precious metal, moved to Bendigo. It was here that alcohol began to take control of his life. Josiah and Cecilia moved to Maldon, another gold area, and set up business running a grain and chaff store. Sarah lost touch with her parents, presumably because she was ashamed of the way her married life was deteriorating. Finally despairing of Staines's addiction to the drink, penniless Sarah with four little children—Thomas Staines Junior, Cissie, Polly and Katie—moved to South Yarra. Here Sarah found work in a flock factory earning a pittance to keep her family alive.

Josiah and Cecilia learned of Sarah's plight and moved to Prahran, where they bought a house in Moffat Street, and took in Sarah and her children. The opportunistic Staines, now with tuberculosis and deciding he deserved to live in comfort, moved in with Sarah. Two outcomes of this were the births of Ettie Amelia and Alfred Holmes. But Thomas did not have long to live, and died on 5 November 1875 aged 44 years.

During their marriage, Sarah bore nine children, three of whom died in infancy. Upon Staines's death, Sarah



Dick Stevens, Cecily and David Davidson, circa 1980.

was left with six children aged 16 years old and under, one of whom, Alfred, was only 9 months old.

With support from her parents while they lived, Sarah worked and brought up her family. In those days, men were considered to be more important than women because male occupations were more available and paid better wages. Sarah decided to put Staines Junior through Chemistry at Melbourne University, and Alfred through Law. To pay for this education, and to contribute to the family income, the four girls—Cissie, Polly, Ettie and Kate—worked for Siegelman the photographer in Collins Street. Staines quit chemistry and entered the Church, becoming an ordained Methodist minister.

Asides

[The relevance of some of these escapes me.—MLS]

- Keith Woodfull Pescott, Cecily's brother, married Ada, a Roman Catholic, at the Glenhuntsley C of E.
- Mervyn Holmes, government health officer, went to Darwin in 1906. He met Mrs Aeanas Gunn.
- The Woodfulls had cousins, the Bormans, in Maidstone, Kent. Hanna was one such.
- Balf and Arthur Ellis (Polly's sons) visited the Bormans in 1914–1918. The Bormans had a portrait or photo of Ettie in their drawing room.
- Arthur Ellis lived at Lilliput near Rutherglen and Springhurst for many years. Will and Polly Ellis owned it.
- Ettie's sister Cissie married a Ritchie. They had two daughters, one of whom was Hazel. They lived in a small town called Kardella in Gippsland.

12 Richard William Stevens

By Chris Stevens

Richard William Stevens was born on 9 October 1924 in Canterbury, NSW. Why his parents, Fred and Cecily, were living in Canterbury at the time isn't clear, but Fred was setting up 2BL radio station, which was later incorporated into the fledgling ABC.

Dick's parents moved around among Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, so Dick attended various schools, including Shorncliffe State School in Brisbane in 1937 (grade 7) and Caulfield Junior Technical School in Melbourne, where he played lacrosse in 1939 (grade 9). On leaving school he took a trade as a butcher (he introduced me to skirt steak, which I still like eating) before joining the Australian Army in 1942. This was always a likely career move, as during his childhood he liked playing soldier, as indicated by the photos on page 44, and he joined the cadets at school.

At the outbreak of WWII, Dick couldn't wait to join up and, likely with his mother's connivance (she was listed as his next of kin), falsified his age as 2 years older; his official records all show his age at enlistment on 18 March 1942 in Caulfield, Victoria, as 19, when he was in fact 17. He would have presented as physi-



Dick with Cecily , 17 July 1925.



Dick only hours old in the arms of his grandmother, Ettie, next to his mother, Cecily.



Dick and his pram, early 1926.

cally older than his age, as he was tall and very fit, being a proficient swimmer and racing bikes on the road and in the velodrome.

VX78061 Sapper Dick Stevens served in the 2/6 Independent Company, which was raised in May 1942 and trained at the Guerrilla Warfare School on Wilson's Promontory, Victoria. Allotted the distinctive Double Diamond Colour Patch of All Independent Companies, it took the title of the "Purple Devils". It later became known as Cavalry Commando Squadron and then Commando Squadron.

The 2/6 Independent was shipped to New Guinea in 1942, and served four major campaigns between 1942 and 1945: on the flanks of the Kokoda Track in 1942; the Buna campaigns with the Americans in 1942-43; in the Markham-Ramu Valleys with 7th Division; and finally at Balikpapan in Borneo. The Commandos had the role of defending New Guinea against southward

invasion by the Japanese forces towards Australia, spending much of their time in near-impenetrable jungle picking off the enemy soldiers. As well as the enemy forces and inhospitable country, they had to contend with a lack of supplies, isolation, spending much of the time out of touch with the main forces and being entirely dependent on their own resources.

In September 1942, Dick’s squadron joined what became known as the “Honner Force”. Wikipedia says:

Honner Force was the name given to an *ad hoc* composite Australian Army force of approximately 500 men under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Honner, which served in the New Guinea campaign in 1942 in World War II.

It was formed on 11 September 1942, under 7th Australian Division Operational Instruction Number 10 and drew manpower from the 36th, 55th and 49th Battalions, which each provided approximately a company, plus a detachment from 2/6th Independent Company. The force was sent out by the New Guinea Force via the Laloki–Goldie River to cut the enemy line of communications between Menari and Nauro. Consisting mainly of eighteen- and nineteen-year-old militiamen who were barely trained and ill-equipped, Honner Force found it difficult to traverse the muddy tracks and dense jungle. However, by 19 September, they had reached the vicinity of Omaramara. The majority of the men were exhausted from the march, and the aerial re-supply that

had been planned for them did not eventuate. As such they were unable to move beyond the limits of which ground supply could reach them. As the strategic situation around Kokoda had stabilised by then, it was decided that the force was in no condition to conduct offensive operations and they were subsequently disbanded shortly after, with the men returning to their parent units without having seen action.

It was in Borneo that Dick held a good mate in his arms as he died of a gunshot wound. This obviously affected Dick. It was also in Borneo that Dick adopted a young orphaned orang utan. He later told stories of it sleeping with him on his stretcher covered with a mosquito net or chasing grasshoppers that other soldiers would place under the net.

Dick’s health was severely compromised by his war service. He contracted malaria, which plagued him throughout his later life. He also contracted scrub typhus and was sent back to Australia to recover. A photo shows him looking all skin and bone, when his normal weight would have been around 100 kg. The

Dick at Mount Dandenong, April 1928.



Family lore had it that Dick’s grandfather GFW Stevens grew these three gigantic beans using nothing but seaweed as fertiliser. In fact, these are gourds, called calabashes (also known as New Guinea beans). Scanned from one of three negatives undated but stored in an envelope from “B. Lloyd, Dispensing & Photographic Chemist”, Hesse Street, Queenscliffe, for “Mrs Stevens, Pt Lonsdale”; 1931.

Stevens Family History



George (age 5 years) and Dick (age 10 years) preparing for battle, 1934.

scrub typhus continued to compromise his health and contributed to his eventual heart disease. And he had shrapnel embedded in his back.

Following the end of hostilities, Dick transferred to the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF), which consisted of Australian, British, Indian and New Zealand military forces in occupied Japan, from 1946 until the end of occupation in 1952. He arrived in Kure on 23 February 1946 and was stationed in Fukuyama. While in Japan he developed a taste for octopus and seaweed. No doubt Japanese ladies as well. His official duties involved driving trucks, maybe in the transport division. It seems he enjoyed his time there. He acquired a warm jacket made out of horse hair, which he wore as he and a mate climbed Mount Fuji. He competed in swimming competitions in the occupation forces, specialising in the butterfly events. He said that he swam against Neil Armstrong, the first man on the Moon. As part of the entertainment at the competitions, he dressed in a clown costume and dived off the 10-metre tower. He was discharged from the BCOF on 12 February 1948 and returned to Australia, where he continued to serve in the Army until 14 March 1958. He remained actively involved in the Army for the rest of his life, mentoring new recruits.



Dick as a cadet, 1934.

Some time in the late 1940s Dick met Jean Hellyer, possibly in Sydney. They married on 30 January 1949 at the Wesley Church in Beaumont Street, Hamilton (Newcastle). To ensure that his army uniform would not be creased, Dick walked from Bates Street, Hamilton North, where Jean's parents lived, to the Church, a distance of 2 km. They lived initially in Married Quarters at Ingleburn Army Camp. Their only child, Christopher William Stevens, was born on 12 January 1953 in Sydney. They later moved to Coal Point.

While still living at Ingleburn he was coaching a girls' marching club. He embezzled the club's funds and was encouraged to leave the Army. Then he was caught stealing railway sleepers and spent two years in Maitland Gaol. I have vague memories of Mum and me visiting him. Our kind neighbour Mrs Lea would drive us to Maitland to see him. It was the only time I can remember Dick actually crying.

After serving his sentence, I think he couldn't face the locals and so left us. Another important reason was that Jean developed severe depression and spent time in mental hospitals. Thus began a nomadic life for the next three decades. Dick worked in a variety of jobs, unable to settle down.

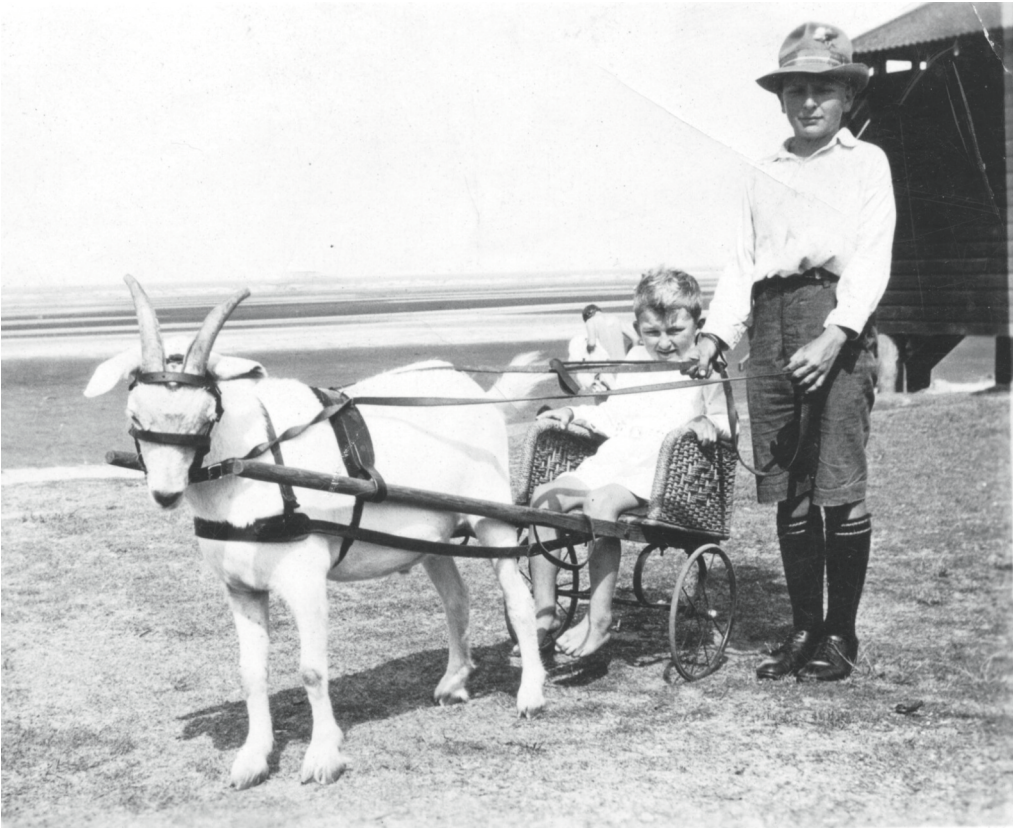


Dick in uniform for real, 1942.

Dick in a strip of photo-booth photographs, 1941.



Dick (age 4) in a billy cart (so called because it was drawn by a billy goat) at the beach, 1928.



Stevens Family History



Dick married Jean Hellyer on 30 January 1949 in Newcastle, NSW.

He worked for the John Danks hardware store as a delivery driver installing washing machines.

He worked in pubs as a barman, a cellarman and even a singer in the Toronto Hotel, no doubt being paid in kind with amber fluid.

Dick was always connected to water. He trained swimmers from babies to children to adults and even Olympians. He worked with the likes of Forbes Carlisle and Don Talbot. He taught scuba diving for the Toronto YMCA in the Toronto Hotel's saltwater swimming pool.

If it were not for Dick I would have drowned one morning. I fell off the back of a half cabin boat that Dick was driving on Lake Macquarie. Our neighbour, in the boat, had turned around just as I was sinking to the bottom with my gumboots full of water. Dick jumped off the back of the boat, swam to where I had been, dived down and brought me to the surface.

Dick worked for BHP Newcastle on the open hearth making steel. He later worked for Sulphide Boolaroo, where they smelted lead, zinc and other nasties. Sul-



phide Corporation sent him to England in the 1960s to study new techniques. As usual he had a falling out with the company and left. He then moved to Queensland to work on drilling rigs as a deep-sea diver. In Gladstone, where he was employed to retrieve broken drill bits in the foundations for bridges, he smashed his left hand in an accident and lost the use of it.

He then moved to Brisbane, where he worked as a janitor and security officer for a YMCA. From Brisbane he moved back to Sydney (Lidcombe), where he managed the Parramatta Swimming Pool; then Gundagai, where he managed the Gundagai Swimming Pool, conducted learn-to-swim classes and built up a junior squad of swimmers; Whitton, where he managed the Whitton Community Swimming Pool until he retired; and finally Griffith, where he again taught swimming. Managing the pools he worked very long days, especially in summer keeping the pool open late at night so the community could use it.

He had taught himself how to engrave, and in Griffith this allowed him to establish a small business that kept him viable for the rest of his working days.



Dick's service medals: 1 Defence Medal 1939–1945 (posthumous), 2 Pacific Star, 3 1939–1945 Star, 4 Australian Service Medal 1945–1975, 5 War Medal 1939–1945 (but not oak leaf), 6 Australian Service Medal 1939–1945. (Another eight medals in his collection are not official.)

Dick was a likeable, entertaining, in-your-face sort of bloke, larger than life. But mixed with alcohol he was obnoxious. He had an eye for the ladies and was very engaging. “My name’s Richard but you can call me Big Dick,” he would say. While he was living in Gundagai in single men’s accommodation on a farm, the husband of a lady Dick was entertaining broke into Dick’s bedroom late one night and stabbed him with a large carving knife. Lucky for Dick a local policeman who was sharing the house was woken up by the disturbance and disarmed the attacker. It was touch and go for a while, but following surgery in Wagga Wagga Base Hospital to repair his abdominal cavity with surgical mesh, Dick eventually recovered and was able to get back to work, with a large scar across his belly.

While living in Whitton, Dick met Dawn Beaumont, a widow and an opera singer. The 25-metre Whitton pool had just been opened. The farmers appreciated him because in summer he would keep it open for them and their families till 9 or 10 o’clock so they could enjoy a cool evening swim. Dick and Dawn would have met through Legacy. Dick always had a soft spot for what Legacy did for the families of soldiers. Dawn was the child of a soldier and she often entertained them with her piano skills and singing. She encouraged Dick to join her performances, especially Christmas spectacles. I will always remember their rendition of Six White Boomers.

Dick was lucky to find such a soul mate in Dawn. I believe Dawn was what he needed. They shared a good life together. They married on 21 May 1995 at the Kapooka Army Recruit Training Centre, Wagga Wagga.



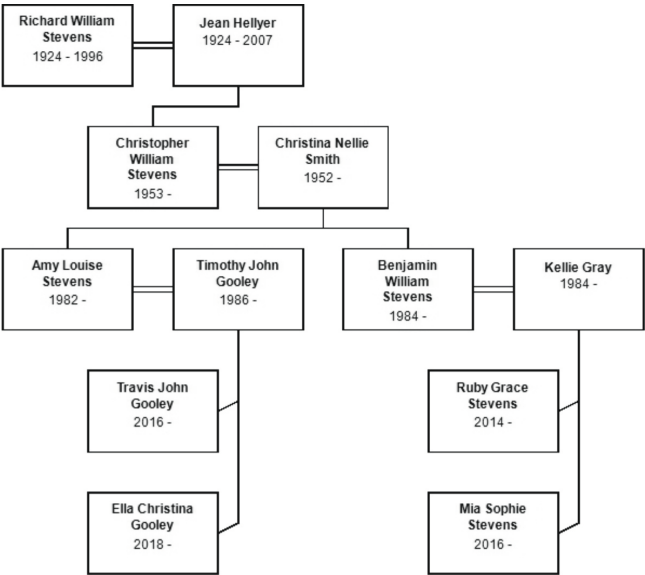
Dick in an official identification portrait, 1950s.

Dick loved young children and was always able to engage with them. He also had a connection with animals, especially dogs. Although he had an explosive temper, with children and animals he displayed the patience of a saint. Dick was very proud of his two grandchildren, Amy and Ben. He was always writing to them and encouraging them to write back, often setting them challenges, like keeping a diary of their holidays.

In 1985, Cecily’s second husband, David Davidson, died in Melbourne, and I think Dick convinced her to move to Leeton to be closer to him. She had a residence in an aged care unit. Cecily was the only person I knew that could put the fear of God into Dick. She was a spitfire.

Dick had a heart attack in December 1995. He was flown from Griffith to St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney. After surgery and a period of rehab he returned to Griffith and Dawn. Some months later he had a stroke at home and never recovered. He died in Griffith Base Hospital of pneumonia on 5 September 1996, at the age of 71 years. He had a large funeral, attended by many people from his Army contacts, Legacy, and his musical forays, and his brothers, George and Ian.

Stevens Family History



Right: Dick at nephew Matthew's wedding to Linda on 21 July 1991, Sydney.
Below: Dick's obituary in the Griffith Area News, 9 September 1996.

EX-SERVICEMEN, Legatee and Probus members will form a guard of honour tomorrow for the funeral of popular Griffith identity and man of many talents, Dick Stevens.

Richard William Stevens, late of Carrathool Street, Griffith died at the Griffith Base Hospital on Friday at the age of 71 years.

Born in Sydney, Mr Stevens' life took him around the world, spending the longest time in one place when he arrived in the Griffith area about 15 years ago.

When he was 16 years old he put his age up to join the Army and his time with the British Occupational Forces and the National Service took him to Japan, Borneo and Korea.

He was a member of the "Purple Devils", a Commando group reviled by Tokyo Rose during World War II after an engagement in which the 2/6 Independent Commando Squadron suffered a loss of 14 with 24-25 wounded but accounted for 300 Japanese troops during the Buna campaign in Papua New Guinea. After the war he stayed with the Army for some time before retiring as "a cranky old Sergeant Major" and became a deep sea diver with off-shore drilling rigs and with bridge foundations.

He competed in the British Occupational Forces Games in Japan as a member of the Australian breaststroke team, defeating the Americans, and was a member of the Army athletics team and the Army Swimming and Water Polo Team in 1949-51, 1953-54 and 1957-58.

"Dick often said if he had his life to live again, he wouldn't do anything different," his wife, Dawn Beaumont-Stevens said.

"He was a man of many talents and greatly fond of children - even though he was a bit grumpy, he was well loved."

Mr Stevens moved to the Griffith area about 15 years ago, spending much of that time as the swimming pool manager at Whitton. He was a foundation member of Griffith Men's Probus and was actively involved in the YWCA in Sydney and in Brisbane.

For their work in organising the Victory Concert in Griffith last year, Mr Stevens and his wife were recognised by the Griffith City Council at the Australia Day Awards held this year, receiving the 1995 Community Event of the Year Award. The concert, award, organising his wife's 60th birthday party (with military precision) and last but not least, his wedding to Dawn Beaumont on May 22, 1995 made last year the best of his life.

Mr Stevens, at the invitation of local schools, spoke to the children about the Second World War and he also did some work for Griffith pre-



DICK Stevens is pictured with his wife, Dawn, and the Australia Day Award they received from Griffith City Council for the Griffith Remembers Victory Concert.

school, making up their play equipment. He also made and donated a rope board to the local scouts, displaying the many different knots.

His hobbies were engraving and calligraphy, doing all the names for the Australia Day Awards certificates each year for the Griffith Australia Day Committee.

Indeed, Mrs Beaumont-Stevens said he was a little put out when he wasn't asked to do the certificates this year, not realising the reason why was to keep the fact they were among the recipients a secret.

Mr Stevens was a member of the Leeton RSL and Leeton Legacy, greatly involved in music and worked for the Talking Books for the Blind.

During the past few years he has been a Squadron sponsor of the 12 Platoon B Company of the First Recruit Training Battalion at Kapooka. Sergeant Andrew Green said Mr Stevens was one of four or five Commandos who visited the Platoon, talking to recruits, counselling them and generally taking an interest in them.

"They'd be there when we raised the platoon, they'd come down to watch them get their hair cut the first time and say g'day and come back after four weeks and have a beer with the platoon when they had their first beers for four weeks. They'd come down and watch 'the challenge' and they watch the Platoon march out. Before Dick Stevens had his stroke, he came out to see the Platoon. The Platoon marched out two weeks ago and it was the first one he missed."

The 12 Platoon B Company will send a cataflague party and bugler to the funeral tomorrow, joining the honour guard for the late Mr Stevens.

Mr Stevens was the husband of Dawn Beaumont-Stevens, father and father-in-law of Chris and Tina, grandfather of Amy and Ben, stepfather of Narelle Dotta, Sharon and Joe Maugeri and Cassandra Brown and uncle of Clinton, Emma, Sarah, Josh, Nadine, Rochelle, Jocelyn, Laura and Luke.

His funeral will leave the St Alban's Cathedral after a service starting at 2pm tomorrow for interment at the Griffith Lawn Cemetery. Donations may be left at the church for Legacy and flowers will also be gratefully accepted.

All Ex-Servicemen wearing medals, Legatee and Probus members have been respectfully invited to attend to form a guard of honour.

Funeral arrangements are in the care of Tony and Anna Zorzanello of Griffith and District Funerals, Benerembah Street, Griffith.

13 George Woodfull Stevens

By Matthew Stevens

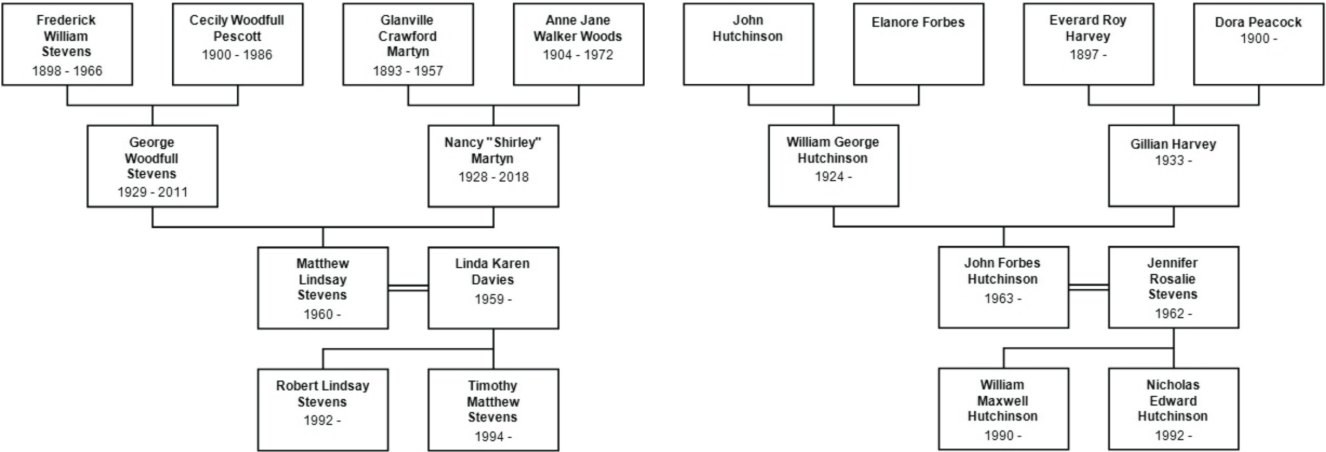
George Woodfull Stevens was born on 10 February 1929 in Woolloowin, Brisbane, to Cecily Woodfull née Pescott and Frederick William Stevens. Had he been born just 4 days later, his mother would have named him Valentine. His life is described in detail in his memoirs, *Just for Stamps*.

He married (Nancy) Shirley (née Martyn) Stevens in 1953. They had two children, Matthew Lindsay (1960) and Jennifer Rosalie (1962).

He died on 28 December 2011.



Just for Stamps
The Life of George Woodfull Stevens
1929–2011



14 Ian Bruce Stevens

By Annette Pimlott and Kay Sim

Ian was born on 28 July 1947 to Frederick William Stevens and Nancy (Nance) Alumward née Sim at the Grange Private Hospital in Brisbane. Ian was their only child, although Fred had two older sons, Richard (Dick) and George. Fred died in 1966 and Nancy in 1987.

Ian didn’t marry, choosing to remain single. In fact, I have been told that when still young, Ian announced: “I am going to be a bachelor.” He would have made a good husband.

On Nancy’s side of the family, Ian had six cousins: Annette (only child of Nancy’s sister, Hazel), Kay and Merle (daughters of Nancy’s brother Vic), and Beverley, Janet and Duncan (children of Nancy’s brother Denzil). On Fred’s side, he had one cousin, Betty, although it’s unlikely they ever met.

Working for the Commonwealth Department of Civil Aviation, Fred’s job determined where the family lived. Ian’s first years were spent in Brisbane. My earliest memory of him was when he was somewhere around the age of 4 at a farewell party when the family were moving to Sydney. Ian and I ate little cakes that resembled pigs and frogs. Even this year I teased Ian and said, “Do you remember the pigs and frogs we ate as children?” Ian rolled his eyes and looked quizzically at me as if to say, “She’s off again with her reminiscing.” He didn’t say whether he remembered or not. The family moved to Sydney. I remember playing with Ian in his toy car—the kind you sit in and pedal; and putting on a concert for our parents—the main idea being to get our mothers to make costumes for us and to “take around the hat” after the performance.

My mother and Ian’s mother were very close. When we visited in Sydney they would take us to Manly. We both loved those outings.

I am not sure of Ian’s age when Fred’s work took the family to Melbourne. I remember playing cricket with him in the back yard. He attempted to teach me how to ride a bike—unsuccessfully, I’m afraid. I still can’t ride today and it wasn’t Ian’s lack of skill as a teacher that he didn’t succeed.

Ian attended primary school at Glen Iris, a Melbourne suburb, and high school at Melbourne Boys’ High School, where he matriculated in 1966, just after losing his father.

After matriculation Ian went to work for the Department of Civil Aviation in the mapping section. He



Ian in Brisbane, 1990, age 43.

wanted to become a pilot, but at that time there wasn’t a suitable opportunity. He had a second job at a suburban movie theatre as an usher; it’s hard to remember those days when we were actually theatre ushers.

Fred died in 1966. Nancy’s family all lived in Brisbane. For his mother’s sake, Ian instigated the move in 1973, when they bought a house in The Gap, where Ian remained for the rest of his life.

Ian initially had several jobs in Brisbane. He even drove a taxi for a while. Then he joined the Commonwealth Government again, but quit not long after as he felt that the work he was doing was unnecessary and unfulfilling.

He studied while working and achieved the following major qualifications:

Ian in Brisbane, October 2001, age 54, with nephew Matthew and great-nephews Timothy (yellow) and Robert (green).





Ian in 1948, age 1 year.



Ian in 1950, age 3 years.

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 1978 | Certificate in Land and Engineering Survey Drafting, TAFE, NSW |
| 1980s | Computer drafting; he contributed in some way to the construction of Expo '88 in Brisbane |
| 1989 | Associate Diploma of Applied Science (Mathematics and Computing), Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education, Queensland |
| 2004 | Associate Degree in Civil Engineering, University of Southern Queensland (achieved even after having been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease) |

After leaving the Commonwealth Government, he then worked as a draftsman for private clients, until ill health forced him to retire.

Ian was an upstanding man—a man who was so quiet and unassuming that this fact was not advertised for the world to see; a man who had the philosophy that “actions speak better than words”.

Ian was a precise and meticulous draftsman. He designed an extension for his friends Di and Piet Brouwer, and the builder was very impressed with his efforts.

Ian loved flying. When in Melbourne he worked two jobs so that he could pay to learn to fly, this being hard way to do it. He qualified as a pilot for single-engine planes with an Instrument Rating and Instructor's Certificate. He took me up on a number of occasions and I enjoyed the experience and had every confidence in his expertise. He even picked up a little work in the area of charter flights and as an instructor.

He was a proper gentleman—very courteous. He would always open doors for women. He was very quiet and non-confrontational. He liked to keep personal things close to him and was fiercely independent. He never wanted to trouble other people, even at his own expense.

He looked after his mother superbly, especially during the years of her ailing health. He was awarded a certificate of appreciation for helping the disabled by de-

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From left: Jean (née Hellyer) Stevens (Dick’s wife), Nance (Ian’s mother), Shirley (née Martyn) Stevens (George’s wife). Front: Ian. September 1954, possibly at the Royal Easter Show, Sydney.



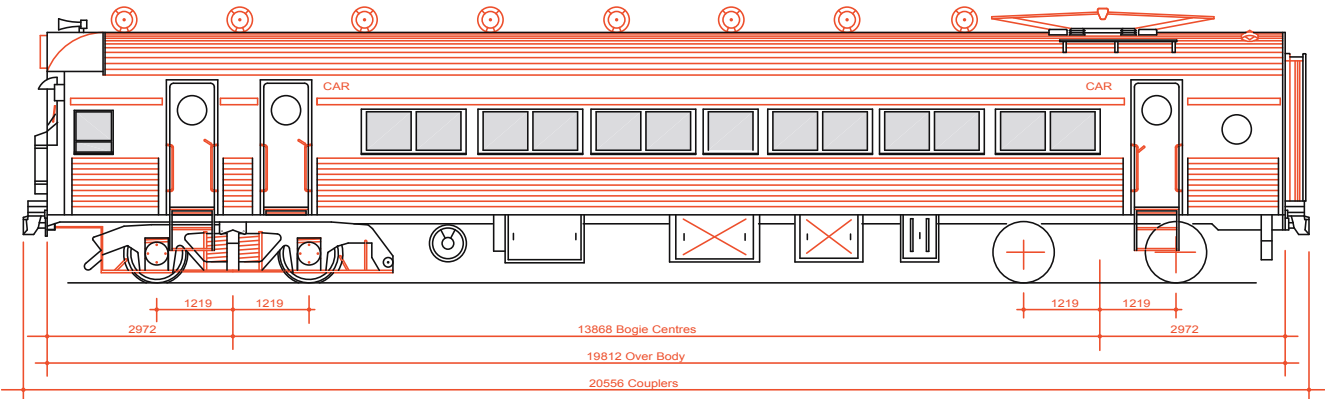
Ian at Melbourne High School, having just matriculated, November 1966, just after his father’s death.

signing devices to enable them to stay in their own homes. Kay and I more or less had to dig this information out of Ian, for he was certainly not boastful.

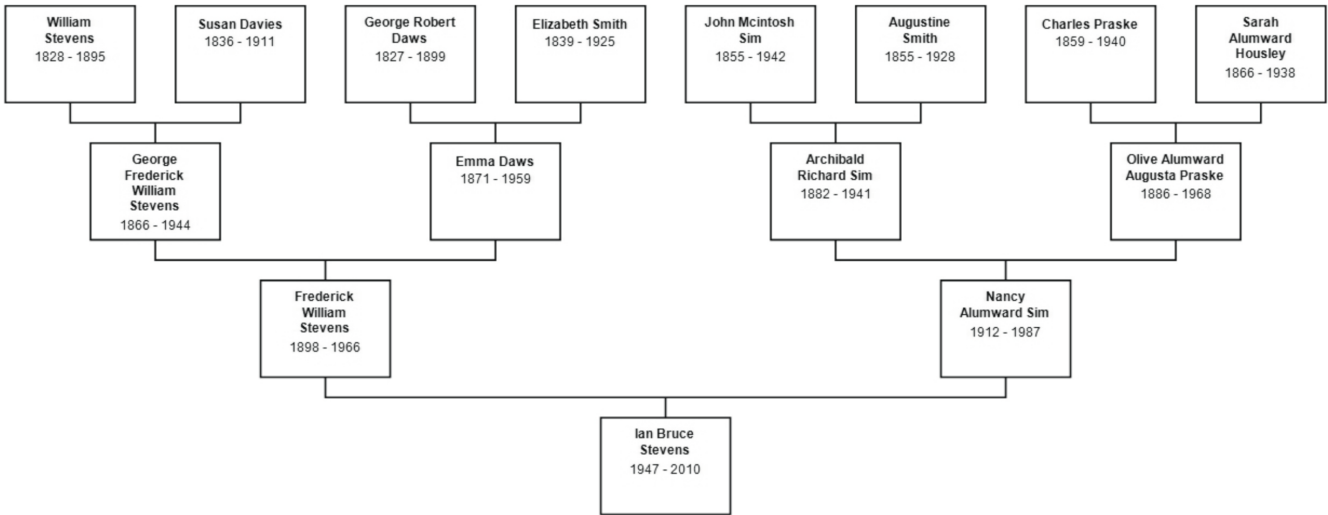
We have today a society filled with advertising. You even have to advertise yourself. Ian was totally the reverse of this, being very modest. Ian had the utmost integrity. He always did what was right. If he said he would do something, he did it.

Ian wasn’t jolly and jovial but he did have a subtle dry wit. He liked comedies such as “Keeping up Appear-ances”, “Yes, Minister” and “The Goon Show”. He liked animals, but he only ever had one pet, a cat called Smokey. My cat Jessie was feisty. Ian loved cats but was wary of Jessie, as were many other people. I would tease Ian and say what an angel she was. He would roll his eyes, think about it, and say, “Yes, but what about the teeth?”

One of CAD Ian’s designs: “NSW PTC Interurban electric power car, scale 1:87 (HO)” drawn for the *Australian Model Railway Magazine*.



Stevens Family History



Postscript

In early July 2010, Ian fell in his bedroom and became wedged between the bed and the wall. Weakened by Parkinson’s disease and heart disease, he couldn’t extricate himself, and remained there for several days. Becoming concerned that she hadn’t heard from him for a while, Annette tried to call. Getting no reply, she called the police, who found Ian alive but weak. The ambulance took him to hospital, but further weakened by several days without food or water, Ian died that night, 9 July 2010.

Ian made intricate and detailed models. This one won second prize in the Royal National Agricultural & Industrial Association of Queensland's 1978 competition.



15 Rubie Medic (née Stevens) Wilson

By Matthew Stevens

Rubie Medic Stevens was born on 17 November 1899 in Camberwell, Victoria, to George Frederick William Stevens and Emma “Pem” (née Daws) Stevens. Why her parents chose the name Medic (a type of plant related to clover) or the spelling “Rubie” is not recorded.

Rubie grew up in the remote lighthouses manned by her father along the Victorian coast. Her older brother, Fred, and her younger brother, Harold, learned the duties of managing a lighthouse and hunted rabbits. There is no evidence that Rubie ever did, but she would have spent her childhood with her brothers running wild in the bushland and along the shore. None of the children received much formal schooling, but their mother taught them at home.

So it is remarkable, then, that Rubie qualified as a school teacher and learned to play the organ. She spent her working life—33 years—teaching at the Point Lonsdale primary school from 1920 until her retirement in December 1953, at the age of 54. This followed her marriage to Russell Wilfred Wilson (born 1889), a widower with three sons, on 17 October 1953 at Point Lonsdale Methodist Church.

It is likely that Rubie and Russell met at the Methodist Church, as Rubie had served there as church organist for many years. A letter from the church trustees dated 21 October 1943 thanks her for her “long and devoted ministry at the organ”, with wishes for her recovery. Her illness is not recorded, and it is not clear whether she retired as church organist then or much later. However, when she did retire, the church gave her the organ that she had played. That organ, a reed organ driven by leather pedal bellows and made in London in about 1873 (according to a date scrawled in pencil inside it), was always a highlight of my (Matthew’s) and Jenny’s rare visits to Auntie Rubie’s house at 55 Powell Street West, Ocean Grove, in the 1960s. We would try to play it (having already been learning the piano) but were regularly defeated by the fine sand and shell grit lodged in most of the reeds on account of the proximity to the beach and the ferocious winds.

Rubie and Russell had 11 years together until he died on 4 August 1964, aged 75 years.

Rubie continued to live at Ocean Grove for another 16 years, and was an avid correspondent with many people, including her nephew George, myself, Loveday (Harold’s first wife) and Betty (Harold’s daughter), and Fred and Nance (Fred’s second wife). For the rest



Rubie and Fred, Point Lonsdale, 1902.

of her life she battled various illnesses, notably crippling arthritis and angina, and regular viral infections that left her weak and thin. During the last 6 years of her life, she continued to expect to move into a retirement home on promises by the church to be planning to build one. Looking after herself got progressively harder, although Loveday reported to George that Meals on Wheels eventually stepped in. But she didn’t move.

Fred, Rubie and Harold, Wilsons Promontory, 1908.





Rubie's school photo, Split Point (Aireys Inlet), 1907. Rubie is wearing a white lace ruff over her smock.

She died on 11 October 1980 in Geelong Hospital, aged nearly 81.

Following her death, George arranged for the pedal organ to be transported to Sydney, where I restored it. It is still in my possession (2021) and is still occasionally played.

Life on an Australian island

In 1915, Rubie, then aged 15, submitted a letter to an English magazine, the *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle* (she had a pen-pal in Newcastle). This is the article.

A most interesting letter has arrived from one of our Australian members. She lives on an island. How she reached the island, and the birds to be seen there, are excellently described in the message. Her reasons for not enlisting recruits as promised are quite good, and Uncle Toby is looking forward to receiving some signatures from Melbourne. Read, now, the welcome epistle from the Antipodes:

Light House Station, Clifty Island, Victoria, Australia, Jan. 14

My friend, Ena Matthew, received the "Weekly Chronicle" in which my letter was published, and she sent it on to me. I was very pleased to see it in the Corner, and I hope I will be able to see this one, too.

You will be wondering why I have not sent in my recruiting paper before this. Well, I have not been able to get one member yet, but you will be able to understand why when I explain. When I last wrote to you we did not know that we were likely to be shifting, but a few weeks after we got notice to move to Clifty Island Light House Station. We left Cape Schanck on July 14, and landed on Clifty on July 17, after a rough trip on the Government steamer Lady Loch. She called at Dromana (a small sea-port on the south-east side of Port Phillip Bay) for us at



Rubie at age 18, in a rowing boat at Wilsons Promontory, 1918.

2.35 p.m. on July 15. We then went over to Queen's cliff and picked up two families, and then went out of Port Phillip Heads at six o'clock. We sheltered in a bay for one day and two nights, where we saw an engineer do some interesting work on an island, which was lit by a self-attending light.

Two families landed on Wilson's Promontory (the most southerly point in Australia), and our island is about 19½ miles north-east of it. This is a very poor island indeed, as there is no vegetation on it except for pig-face growing on this big rock. There are three families of us, two assistants and their wives, and my father, mother, brother and myself. So now perhaps you will not wonder why I have not been able to get any members so far.

I received the recruiting papers and interesting little booklet some time after we came here, and I thank you very much, Uncle Toby.

We expect to leave here in a few days, so I will do my best to get some members for the D.B.S. [Dicky Bird Society] as soon as I reach Melbourne. Not many birds visit here, but more than I expected, considering there are no trees for them to build or perch in. Of course there are sea birds, such as Shags, Molly-hawks, Sea-gulls,

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and Red-bills. There have been a few Ground-larks here ever since we came, and they have nested and hatched young ones, I am sure, but we cannot find their nests.

Sometimes a few of each, Swallows, White-eyes, Sparrows, Starlings, Fan-tails, and Blue-wren, come to visit us for a short time. I often watch them catch the flies on the wall and I give them crumbs, which they take readily. Mutton-birds are birds which nest in burrows or holes in the ground. It is said that they all nest on November 25. Well, we watched them this year and this is what we noticed. They all came here early in November and made their burrows and then went away, but they did not all come back on the one day, although very many did. They have been about here ever since—that is to say, on and off, because they mostly nest in the three neighbouring islands, where they are not disturbed. They do not make a nest, but just lay their egg on the floor of their burrow. Father and my brother found several nests and they brought some eggs back home to see what they were like, and we found that they were exactly like a duck egg, both out and inside. There are men employed to gather them off the islands in Western Port Bay and they are then sold to the factories. The sea was black with mutton birds yesterday morning while they were getting their breakfasts.

Well, Uncle Toby, my letter will be getting too long, so had better say good-bye for this time. Hoping you are well, and I also wish you a very happy New Year, if I am not too late. I remain, your little niece,

RUBIE MEDIC STEVENS

Poems

Rubie enjoyed writing poems, some of which appear, from comments in correspondence, to have been published. Two are reproduced in *Frederick William Stevens MBE*, as they celebrate Fred’s life. Here is the only other one to survive (from about 1916).

For years I've lived upon the coast
Of our Victorian state
The moods of our great sea I know
In peaceful calm or haste.

I heard its thundering billows roar
Upon the Nelson's shore,
And saw it gently lap our beach
As tides through channels tore.

Ships passed when storms were raging high,
All canvas stripped and torn,
The crews were working day and night
Replacing them at dawn.



Rubie married Russell Wilson on 17 October 1953.

The angry deep then would become,
A mirror bright and clear,
Reflecting lights of mighty ships,
As they by night drew near.

They'd pass our lovely barren isle,
Cliffy the granite rock
Two vessels only came to us
“Wyrallah” and the “Loch”.

To us they brought supplies and mails,
Enabling us to be,
In readiness to help a ship,
When danger we could see.

'Tis now the work of other folk,
These duties to attend.
But we our interest always keep.
And greetings to them send.

16 Harold Robert Stevens

By George Stevens

If a family is to have a black sheep, then Harold was the black sheep of his generation of Stevenses.

Harold was born at Point Lonsdale on 2 September 1902, and spent his early years with his older brother Fred, sister Rubie, and father GFWS and mother Emma in Victorian lighthouses. As with his brother and sister, formal education was low on the priority list, the important functions being to help around the lighthouse residences for an hour or so each day, and spending the rest of the time fishing, shooting, exploring and tinkering with tools.

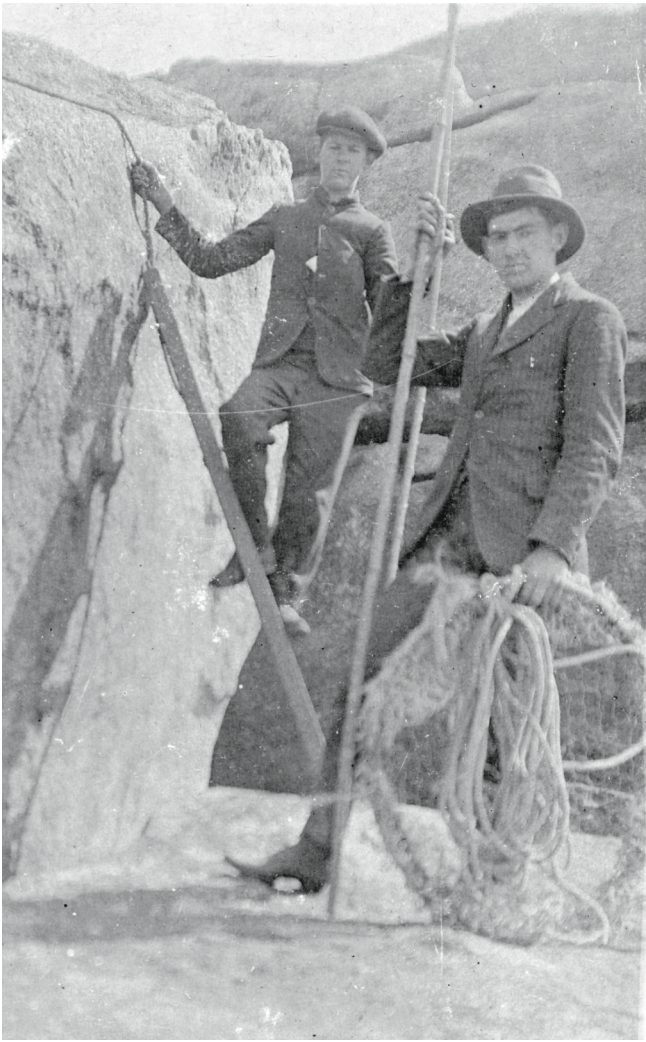
Harold taught himself the basics of carpentry, and as soon as he was able, he escaped the cloistered home life for adventure. He made a comfortable living as a house builder and renovator around Point Lonsdale and later Melbourne, and in an attempt at respectability married the girl next door, Loveday Werry, on 24 April 1926 at St George's Church, Queenscliff. The Werry family operated the local Point Lonsdale general store.

From left to right, Rubie, Fred and Harold (3 years), Cape Nelson, 1905.



Above: Harold Robert Stevens, age 18 years, 1920.

Below: Harold (up ladder) and Fred carrying fishing gear, Cape Schanck, 1912.





Above: Harold's sister, Rubie, and his daughter, Betty (age 9), at "Samarai", 1936. The resemblance is evident.

Right: Betty (age 4) with a kookaburra, 1931.



On 19 March 1927, their daughter Betty was born:

STEVENS (nee Loveday Werry).—On the 19th March, at Bellaria private hospital, Newtown, to Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Stevens, 15 Mervyn street, Chilwell—a daughter (Betty). (Both doing well.)

After a few years Harold got itchy feet and went to sea in the Merchant Navy for 7 years until WW2 started. [He enlisted on 7 July 1940 with the 4th Army Troops with the number V17179. He served with an artillery unit.]

https://honouringveterans.org/vet_profile.php?id=507933

Name:	Stevens, Harold Robert
Date Of Birth:	2 Sep 1900 [1902]
Place Of Birth	Point Lonsdale, Vic
Date Of Enlistment	26 Oct 1942
Place Of Enlistment	Liverpool, NSW
Date Of Discharge	22 Dec 1944
Service	Australian Army
Rank	Staff Sergeant
Next Of Kin	Stevens, Loveday

Harold's sister, Rubie Medic (née Stevens) Wilson, wrote:

Harold sailed for England 15th April 1940 on the *H.M.T. Neuralia* Y2. Returned on 13th Nov 1940 on *N.Z. Motor Vessel Rangitata* to NZ and from there to Sydney by *S.S. Maunganui* to Melbourne by *Spirit of Progress* 13th Nov 1940.

Harold wrote home from the *Neuralia*:

Sunday 14/4/40. Dear All, Just a card to let you know we are sailing within the next hour or so the troops are still coming on board, and it is not a very happy picture. Have been on watch from 8am to noon. and will soon settle in there is to much excitement yet to settle down to write. and will have to watch a chance to get this ashore much love to all Lovey son and brother Harold.

Harold and Loveday divorced after about 25 years of marriage, so about 1951.

He spent much of the war years in the Army, and after his discharge he moved to Brisbane, where he set up home with a woman friend [Sylvia S. Stevens, no relation], staying there until his death in 1954 from "coronary occlusion".



One of these two women is Loveday (née Werry), Harold's first wife. But which one is not identified. 1931.

Harold in Army uniform during the 1940s.



On 24 June 1950, Betty married Robert Bryant:

Leaving the Independent Church, Collins street after their marriage are Mr. and Mrs. Robert James Bryant. The bride was formerly Miss Betty Werry Stevens.

[Betty and Bob adopted Roger Malcolm Bryant, born 28 October 1958, Melbourne.]

Harold died on 10 March 1954 at 34 Adsett Street, Taringa, Queensland:

STEVENS. — The Cremation Service of the late Harold Robert Stevens of "Closeburn," Adsett St., Taringa (late Works Supervisor, Commonwealth Department of Works), will be held in the Chapel of Mt. Thompson Crematorium To-morrow (Friday), at 11 a.m. Cut flowers by request. Floral tributes will be received at the Parlour, 400 Wickham St., until 10 a.m., Friday.

[He was cremated the Mt Thompson Crematorium & Memorial Gardens at Holland Park in Brisbane on 12 March 1954, where his ashes were scattered.]

Addendum

By Matthew Stevens

Following his death, Sylvia Stevens wrote to the Army to ask whether Harold had lodged a Will with the Army. The Army replied that he hadn't.

Many years later, Harold's nephew, George Stevens, tried to track Sylvia down with the intention of learning more about his uncle, whom he had barely known. George's half-brother, Ian Stevens, tracked her down to a nursing home, Iona Village, Kenmore Hills, Brisbane. On 30 January 2001, George wrote to the director of the nursing home:

This is a request of you to act as a communications intermediary between me and one of your residents, if having read this letter you feel it appropriate to do so. The person I want to contact is Mrs Sylvia Stevens, who was the wife of my uncle Harold Stevens deceased. I have never had any contact previously with Sylvia, and at this stage of her life she may resent or feel apprehensive about a direct approach from me. My reason for wanting to make

contact is that I am searching for historical information about Harold.

...

The last thing I want to do is cause Sylvia any discomfort or distress – she must be close to 90 now I'd imagine. However, if she is at all willing and able, I'd like to establish some sort of communication link with her, primarily to get her memories of Harold added to my little record.

The response was extraordinary:

3.2.01

Your letter dated 30.1.01 addressed to the Director of Nursing, Iona Nursing Home, has been passed to me for reply.

The subject matter in your letter was an embarrassment to both parties as any accommodation is not part of Nursing care as you presumed. Your letter was an invasion of Privacy and any further communication or contact could be classed as Harassment.

S. S. Stevens

We'll never know.



IN THE COLONY OF VICTORIA. [ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE.]

SCHEDULE D.—22 VICT. No. 70.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

District of Daylesford No. in Register 110
On 31. May 1886 at Blanket Flat
Marriage By License was solemnized between us according to the
rites & Ceremonies of the United Ch. of Eng. & Ireland
Signature George Robt Daws

DESCRIPTION. Residence { Present Kingston
Usual _____
Age 38
Rank or Profession Stone Keeper
Condition Bachelor
If Widower { Former _____ Deceased in _____
Wife. { Children _____
Living _____ Dead _____
Birth Place London
Parents' Names and Rank or Profession { Father Robert Daws Cabinet maker
Mother Martha Champney
(Maiden Surname.)

Signature Elizabeth Smith

DESCRIPTION. Residence { Present Daylesford
Usual _____
Age 22
Rank or Profession _____
Condition Spinster
If Widow { Former _____ Deceased in _____
Husband. { Children _____
Living _____ Dead _____
Birth Place London
Parents' Names and Rank or Profession { Father William Smith Com. Jeweller
Mother Caroline Higgins
(Maiden Surname.)

I, Ed. Gifford Pryce being Ch. of Eng. Minister
do hereby certify that I have this day, at Blanket Flat
duly celebrated Marriage between George Robert Daws
Bachelor and Elizabeth Smith
Spinster after notice and declaration duly made and published as by law required.
Dated this Thirtyfirst day of May 1886.
Signature of Minister, Registrar-General or other Officer. Ed. Gifford Pryce B.L.
Witnesses { Henry James Gathorne
Francis Daws

(SZAKO.—25110 (62.)

Marriage of George Robert Daws to Elizabeth Smith, 31 May 1886.

Stevens Family History

SCHEDULE B.					SCHEDULE B.				
DEATHS in the District of					of Victoria,				
in the Colony					Registered by E WILSON				
No.	DESCRIPTION.	(1) Cause of Death. (2) Duration of last Illness. (3) Medical Attendant by whom certified, and (4) When he first saw Decased.	Name and Surname of Father and Mother (Maiden Name), if known, with Rank or Profession.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	(5) Signature of Registrar, (6) Date, and (7) Where Registered.	IF BURIAL REGISTERED. When and where buried. Name and Religion of Minister, Undertaker by whom certified.		Where Born, and how long in the Australian Colonies, stating which.	IF DECEASED WAS MARRIED. (8) When, and at what Age. and to Whom. Issue, in order of Birth, their Names and Ages.
357	<p>April 1899 Spencer Crescent CAMBERWELL</p> <p>Mrs of Camberwell County of Bourke</p>	<p>Large Robert Daws male 71 years 11 months</p> <p>Central apoplexy 2 days Dr Geo E Andrews 4-6 April 1899</p>	Robert Daws (chairmaker)	4956	Edward Wilson 4 April 1899 Camberwell	<p>9th April 1899 Rural (Sydney)</p> <p>Born near Cornwall England</p>	<p>Hattery London England</p> <p>Pictoria years</p>	<p>Blench Flack Pictoria</p> <p>31 years 2 months (deceased) Born near Cornwall England Deceased 37 years near Pictoria Elizabeth Smith</p>	

Death certificate, George Robert Daws, 7 April 1899,

THIRD SCHEDULE.					THIRD SCHEDULE.				
DEATHS in the District of DONCASTER					of Victoria,				
in the State					Registered by W. Fidler				
No.	Where and where Died.	Description.	Name and Surname of Father and Mother (Maiden Name if known), with Occupation.	(1) Cause of Death. (2) Duration of last Illness. (3) Legally qualified Medical Practitioner by whom certified, and (4) When he last saw Deceased.	(1) Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	(2) Signature of Registrar, (3) Date, and (4) Where Registered.	(5) IF BURIAL REGISTERED. When and where buried. (6) Name and Religion of Minister, or Name of Witness, as in Burial.	(7) Where Born, and how long in the Australian States, stating which.	(8) IF DECEASED WAS MARRIED. In— In order of Birth, the Name and Age.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1	July 30 th 1925 George Street East Doncaster Shrine of Doncaster County of Derbyshire	Elizabeth Davis Domestic Services	Mrs. St. Davis Mrs. Dr. P. B. Simmons	Pulmonary tuberculosis, cardiac failure 9 Days Dr. P. B. Simmons July 29 th 1925	Wm. Fidler Registrar Doncaster Upport Hawthorn	July 31 st 1925 St. Michael's Parish Doncaster July 31 st 1925	London England 65 Years Victoria	Kington England 26 Years Kingscliff Derbyshire	John Henry 58 years Emma Beccard tomb 55 years Edward 56 years Frank Beccard Harry Walter 51 years David Charles 49 years

Death certificate, Elizabeth Daws, 30 July 1925.

[illegible]

Birth certificate, Emma Daws, 27 March 1871,

The following is a copy of the Registration of Birth as appearing in the Books of this office

No	When & Where Born	Name and whether first	Sex	Father	Date of marriage	Beefast from 27th Oct Mother's name
2173	6th March 1866 Beefast Victoria	George Frederick William not present	Male	Wm Stevens light house keeper 236 years Sussex England	30th July 1861 Beefast Victoria Emily Catherine	Susan Stevens formerly Davis 2 28 years 3 London England

Birth certificate, George Frederick William Stevens, 6 March 1866.

Shalimar.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AGE.

Sir,—In reply to your correspondent "W.G.G." (Footscray) in your issue of 20th October, one family arriving in the Shalimar on the voyage he referred to transshipping to the Champion for Warrnambool, consisted of Mrs. Milne, two sons and two daughters, the eldest son, Richard, being in business in that district for many years, a councillor and one time president of Warrnambool council.

I regret to inform "W.G.G." that all those ship mates have passed on, the eldest daughter only about 12 months ago, aged 86 years. I understand the lighthouse keeper* at Warrnambool in the early days came out in the Shalimar. I am making further inquiries, and if I locate any of "W.G.G.'s" shipmates I will only be too pleased to put them in touch with him through "The Age" Ships of the Past column.

As a reader of "The Age" and "The Leader" for nearly 60 years, I tender you my thanks on publishing letters with accounts of voyages.—Yours, &c.

Colac.

J.R.M.

The Age, Saturday 26 January 1935 page 20

*Possibly William Stevens

DAWS.—On the 30th July, at her son's residence, George road, East Doncaster, Elizabeth, relict of the late G. R. Daws, loved mother of R. H., Mrs. Stevens (Point Lonsdale), E., B.A., A.C. (Privately interred.)

STEVENS.—On the 23rd February, at Colac East, Annie Louisa, second daughter of the late William and Susan Stevens, and loving sister of Emily (Mrs. Anderson, deceased), George (Point Lonsdale), Maud (Colac), and Arthur (Colac).

STEVENS.—On the 23rd February, 1931, at Colac East, Annie Louisa, loving auntie of Fred (Brisbane), Rubie, and Harold (Point Lonsdale). —A patient sufferer gone home.

STEVENS.—On September 28, at a private hospital, Geelong, Maud Josephine, of 18 Maude Street, Geelong, beloved daughter of the late William and Susan Stevens, and loved sister of George (deceased), and Arthur. Aged 81 years.

At Rest.

Privately interred Colac Cemetery, September 30, 1954.

A Link of George Frederick William Stevens,
(Signed) Wm Earle Deputy Registrar

Informant's Name	Address	Confirming	Date of Registry	Registration
		D. Loftus	3rd	
William Stevens	Mr Scanbick		May	W.R. Wheeler
Father			1866	
Deputy	None		Belgar	

Stevens Family History

CHILD.

Born on Sixth day of March 1866
At * Beefast, Victoria
Christian Name George Frederick William
Sex Male
Name { Christian William
Surname Stevens
Rank or Occupation Lighthouse Keeper
Age 36 years
Born at Sussex, England
When Married 30th July 1861
Where Married Beefast, Victoria

FATHER.

Issue, by the present
or a former mar-
riage, in order of
birth (the names
and ages of those
living and the
names of those de-
ceased).


MOTHER.

Name { Christian Susan
Maiden Surname Stevens Davis
(If a widow, name of former husband)
Age 28 years
Born at London, England
Accoucheur Dr. Loftus
Nurse Mr. Scarstrick
Occupiers or Witnesses None

* State street, lane, or other precise description of locality.

The above is a true copy of registration of
Birth of George Frederick William Stevens
as in the books at this Office Wm Earle
Port Dairry, Jan 12 1890 Rep Kepten

En the Colony of Victoria.


 SCHEDULE D.—28 VICT. No. 268.

[ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE.]

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

District Melbourne No. in Register 35
 On Thursday at Residence of Bride
 Marriage By Licence was solemnized between As according to the
Act of the Wesleyan Church
 Signature Geo. F. W. Stevens

DESCRIPTION.

Residence { Present Split Point Light House
 Usual Split Point Light House
 Age Twenty Three
 Rank or Profession Light House Keeper
 Condition Single
 If Widower { Former Deceased in { Children Living Dead
 Wife { Port Fairy, Vic. Aus.
 Birth Place Port Fairy, Vic. Aus.
 Parents' Names and { Father William Stevens Govt Officer
 Rank or Profession { Mother Susan Stevens
 (Maiden Surname.)

Signature Emma Daws

DESCRIPTION.

Residence { Present Camberwell
 Usual Camberwell
 Age Twenty Three
 Rank or Profession Domestic
 Condition Single
 If Widow { Former Deceased in { Children Living Dead
 Husband { Kingston, Vic. Aus.
 Birth Place Kingston, Vic. Aus.
 Parents' Names and { Father George Frederick Daws Gardener
 Rank or Profession { Mother Elizabeth Daws Smith
 (Maiden Surname.)

I, H. C. Farley being Wesleyan Minister
 do hereby certify that I have this day, at Camberwell
 duly celebrated Marriage between George Frederick William Stevens
 and Emma Daws
 after notice and declaration duly made and published as by law required.
 Dated this 19th day of October 1893
 Signature of Minister, Registrar-General, or other officer. H. C. Farley
 Witnesses { Edward Daws

Above: Marriage certificate, George Frederick William Stevens and Emma Daws, 19 October 1893. Right: Wedding notice in the newspaper.

STEVENS—DAWS.—On the 19th October, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. H. C. Farley, Wesleyan minister, of Euroa, George Frederick William, eldest son of William Stevens, of Come, to Emmie, only daughter of G. R. Daws, "Harlington," Spencer-crescent, Camberwell.

Opposite: Marriage certificate, William Stevens and Susan Davies, 30 July 1861.

Stevens Family History

~~Passed away~~ *Nov 4th 1944*
QUEENSCLIFF

The funeral of Mr. George Frederick Stevens, late of Point Lonsdale, took place to the Point Lonsdale Cemetery, Mr. Stevens was well known in the district, and was highly respected. He is survived by a widow, daughter Ruby, and two sons. Prior to the funeral the Rev. G. Goldsmith, of Wesley Church, Queenscliff, conducted a service at the residence, and also read the burial service at the graveside. The funeral was largely attended by residents of the district and relatives. Two sons (Fred and Harold) are serving with the forces. Mr. Stevens, who was aged 78 years, had been for many years in the service of the Commonwealth and State, and for varying terms had been attached to the lighthouses and lights around the coast. He had served in the following stations—Gabo, Wilson's Promontory, Clifty, Cape Nelson, Cape Schanck, South Channel, Gellibrand, Split Point and Lonsdale. In the early part of the present century Mr. Stevens, while at Point Lonsdale lighthouse, also conducted the Post Office, which was attached at that time to the lighthouse. Coffin-bearers were Messrs. R. H. and H. A. Daws (brothers-in-law), Crs. G. B. Howden, R. H. Goodall, and Messrs. H. Clay and F. Thomson. Pall-bearers: Cr. W. J. Field, Messrs. R. Feldtman, C. Jordan, J. Herbert, W. Longuehay, L. Sprake, J. MacKenzie, and E. V. Butler. Chief mourners were Messrs. A. Stevens, of Colac (brother), R. H. Daws (Brighton), H. A. Daws (Hawthorn), brothers-in-law.

14—ARGUS, MON, NOV 6/44

DEATHS

(Continued from Page 2.)

STEVENS.—On November 4, at a private hospital, Geelong, George Frederick W., beloved husband of Emma Stevens, Samarai, Main road, Pt. Lonsdale, and loving father of Fred (R.A.A.F.), Rubie, and Harold (Second A.I.F.), aged 78 years. —A patient sufferer at rest.

TAYLOR.—On November 5, at 15 Warrick

STEVENS.—On the 4th November, 1944, at a private Hospital, Geelong, George Fredrick, the beloved husband of Emma Stevens, of "Samarai," Main Road, Point Lonsdale, and loving father of Fred (R.A.A.F.), Rubie and Harold (2nd A.I.F.) Aged 78 years.

A patient sufferer at rest.

STEVENS.—On November 4, at Geelong, George Fredrick, loved grand-dad of Betty, and loved father-in-law of Loveday Stevens, of Point Lonsdale. Sadly missed.

FUNERAL NOTICE

STEVENS.—The friends of the late Mr. George F. W. Stevens are respectfully invited to follow his remains to the place of interment, the Point Lonsdale Cemetery.

The funeral is appointed to leave his late residence, "Samarai," Main Road, Point Lonsdale, **THIS DAY (Monday), 6th November, 1944**, after a short service commencing at 3 p.m.

ERNEST H. KING & CO., Funeral Directors, 187 Moorabool Street, Geelong. Phone 1122.

PERSONAL & SOCIAL**Farewell Miss Stevens****33 YEARS AS TEACHER**

On Friday afternoon, September 26, the Mothers' Club, School Committee, Parents' and children of the Point Lonsdale School gathered at the school to farewell Miss Stevens, who is leaving on six months long service leave, after teaching at the school for 33 years.

Cr. A. Laker, President of the School Committee, Mr. Parker, Headteacher and Mrs. Stewart, on behalf of the President of the Mother's Club, adequately expressed the sentiments of the gathering, and also of many old pupils who could not be present, in their addresses to Miss Stevens.

A presentation was made to her of a "Traveller's" clock, together with three beautiful floral tributes.

The school children were given soft drinks and biscuits while the parents and mothers enjoyed afternoon tea.

Thirty-three years is a long time, and it is needless to say Miss Stevens' absence will be felt very much by the children and all those connected with the school. It is hard to imagine the school without Miss Stevens and the tender and careful guidance she has given so freely to the little ones, at the Point for so very long — Yes, Miss Stevens will be greatly missed.

* * * * *

On the retirement of Rubie Medic Stevens, circa 1953 (just after she married Russell Wilson).

Opposite above: James Richard Pescott's school report, 1880s.

Opposite below: Extract of birth record, Rubie Medic Stevens, 17 November 1899.

Roll No.	Classification.	Authority.	Remarks.	Roll No.	Classification.
10260					
James Richard Prescott.					
2061.	Vict. sec.	20. 6. 4. 12543. Age 15. 1.	Born 7 April 1866	1189	II. 3. 3.
		54. 13. 883. April 7. 1 from 28 April 1884.			
		6. 10. 81. 36580. Stewart. Should improve :- rather slow.			
		16. 12. 84. 11. 5397. Pen & Writing, 3 of 2 for 3 class.			
	3 rd cl.	28. 3. 85. 11. 18397. Latin Writing for 3 class.			
		5. 6. 85. 11. 18397. from 1 April 1885.			
		5. 6. 85. 11. 17206. Stewart. Shows improvement.			
		5. 10. 85. 11. 17206. Is improving.			
	2 nd cl.	15. 12. 85. 11. 19502. Pen & a of 2 for 2 class.			
		23. 6. 86. 11. 19502. 12 March. Shows satisfactory improvement.			
		23. 11. 86. 11. 19502. from 1 January 1886.			
		22. 12. 86. 11. 20420. Pen & Writing, 3 of 2 for 1 class.			
	1 st cl.	28. 3. 87. 11. 20420. from 1 April 1887.			
		5. 5. 87. 11. 20420. Resigned 31 March 1887.			
4.		Margaret S. 11. 11. 11. 11. 11.			

A.M.P.

STATE OF VICTORIA. N^o 6452

"EXTRACT" OF ENTRY.

Office of the Government Statist,

Melbourne, 2 AUG 1934 19

Re Application Fol. 34054.

MEMO.

According to the Registers in this Office,

Rubie Medic daughter of
George Frederick William Stevens
and Emma " "
née Daws

was born at Bamberwell
on the 17th November 1899

The Official Number of the entry is 1424/00.

O. GAWLER,
Government Statist.

N.B.—The Fee for an Uncertified Extract or a search over any period of five years or part thereof is 2/6 for Registrations made on or after 1st July, 1853, or 1/- for those made prior to that date. A Certificate of above entry will be supplied for an additional fee of 5/-. In all correspondence bearing on the entry, the "Application Folio No. and the Official Number" must be quoted.

N.251/2.34.—1746.

5151232

DEATH in the District of BRISBANE , in the State of Queensland , Registered by Timothy Francis de Sales Scott , Registrar-General.	
Column. 1 Number.	1015
Description—	
2 When Died and Where.	10 March 1954 34 Adsett Street, Taringa
3 Name and surname, rank, or profession.	HAROLD ROBERT STEVENS Works Supervisor
4 Sex and age.	Male 52 years
5 (1) Cause of Death.	Coronary occlusion
(2) Duration of last illness.	
(3) Medical Attendant by whom certified.	Ian McLelland 3 March 1954
(4) When he last saw Deceased.	
6 Name and Surname of Father, with rank or profession.	George Frederick William Stevens
Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Emma Daws
7 Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	Certified in writing by B.S. Stevens, No Relation, 34 Adsett Street, Taringa
8 (1) Signature of Registrar-General.	<i>T. F. de Sales Scott</i>
(2) Date.	17 March 1954
(3) Place of Registration.	Brisbane.
If Burial or Cremation Registered—	
9 When and where buried or cremated.	12 March 1954 Cremated at Mt. Thompson Crematorium
By whom certified.	C. J. Stead
10 Name and religion of minister, and names of two witnesses to burial or cremation.	E. D. Eglinton Church of England W. Taylor J. Smith
11 Where born and how long in Australian States, stating which.	Point Lonsdale, Bellarine, Victoria Native
If Deceased was Married—	Point Lonsdale, Bellarine, Victoria
12 (1) Where.	about 25 years
(2) At what Age.	Loveday Werry
(3) To Whom.	
13 Issue living, in order of birth, their names and ages.	Living Betty Werry about 28 years
Deceased, number and sex.	Deceased nil

I, **Desmond Barry Tanner**, Registrar-General Govt. Printer, Brisbane, hereby certify that this is a true photographic copy of particulars recorded in an entry in a register kept in the General Registry Office, Brisbane.

Dated **30 OCT 2000** *Desmond Barry Tanner*
Registrar-General

N.B. Not Valid Unless Bearing the Authorised Seal and Signature of the Registrar-General

Death certificate, Harold Robert Stevens, 10 March 1954.

THIRD SCHEDULE.

JH

No. 4959

DEATHS in the District of MELBOURNE, in
Victoria, Registered by

SAMUEL HENRY EDGERTON HOLLOW

1 No. ...	Nº 4959
Description—	
2 (1) When and where died	26th May, 1944, 111 Claremont Avenue, Malvern, City of Malvern, County of Bourke.
(2) Usual Place of Residence	88 Eskdale Road, Caulfield North, City of Caulfield.
3 Name and Surname	Ettie Amelia PESCOTT,
Occupation	Home Duties,
4 Sex and age	Female, 74 years.
5 (1) Cause of death	Cardiac failure - 7 days,
(2) Duration of last illness	Arteriosclerosis - 20 years,
(3) Legally qualified medical practitioner by whom certified	Cerebral softening - 2 years.
and	Dr. B. Hallows,
(4) When he last saw deceased	20th May, 1944.
6 Name and surname of father and mother (maiden name, if known), with occupation	Thomas Woodfull, Sarah Woodfull, formerly Brittingham, Unknown.
7 Signature, description, and residence of informant	<i>[Signature]</i> Authorized Agent, High Street, Malvern.
8 (1) Signature of Registrar	<i>[Signature]</i>
(2) Date and	1st June, 1944, Melbourne.
(3) Where registered	
If burial registered—	
9 When and where buried	27th May, 1944, Cremated at Spring Vale Crematorium, F. Garson.
Undertaker by whom certified	
10 Name and religion of Minister, or names of witnesses of burial	F. Smith, H. Stevenson.
11 Where born, and how long in the Australian States, stating which	Coburg, Victoria, 74 years in Victoria.
If deceased was married—	
12 (1) Where and	South Yarra, Victoria,
(2) At what age and	23 years,
(3) To whom	James Richard Pescott,
(4) Conjugal Condition at Date of Death	Married,
13 Issue in order of birth, the names and ages	Dorothy Woodfull, 49 years, Keith Woodfull, 46 years, Cecily Woodfull, 44 years.

H. 352/7.41.—1900.

Nº 4959

Death certificate, Ettie Amelia (née Woodfull) Pescott, 26 May 1944.

Stevens Family History



Cape Nelson, circa 1903.



Tent and Model T Ford, possibly at Point Lonsdale, circa 1905.



Post Office, Flinders, Victoria, circa 1905.



Point Lonsdale Lighthouse, 1904.



Cliffy Island Lighthouse, 1915.



Point Lonsdale Lighthouse sketched by George Frederick William Stevens circa 1904. The original sketch is gone but a photograph of it survives.



Split Point Lighthouse, circa 1905.

Stevens Family History



Cliffy Island loading crane and shed, 1915.



The SS *Wyrallah* in Melbourne. The lighthouse staff and their families travelled on this.



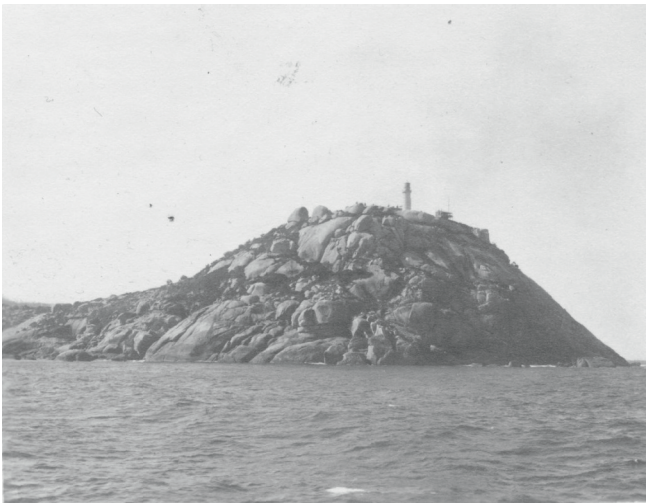
Cape Nelson Lighthouse, circa 1930. The man is not identified.



Cliffy Island and Lighthouse, 1915.



Wilsons Promontory Lighthouse and cottages, 1918.



Wilsons Promontory Lighthouse taken from SS Wyrallah, 1918.



Stevens Family History

